明日の王様



Ashita No Ousama

谷地恵美子

by Yachi Emiko

集英社文庫

明日の王様

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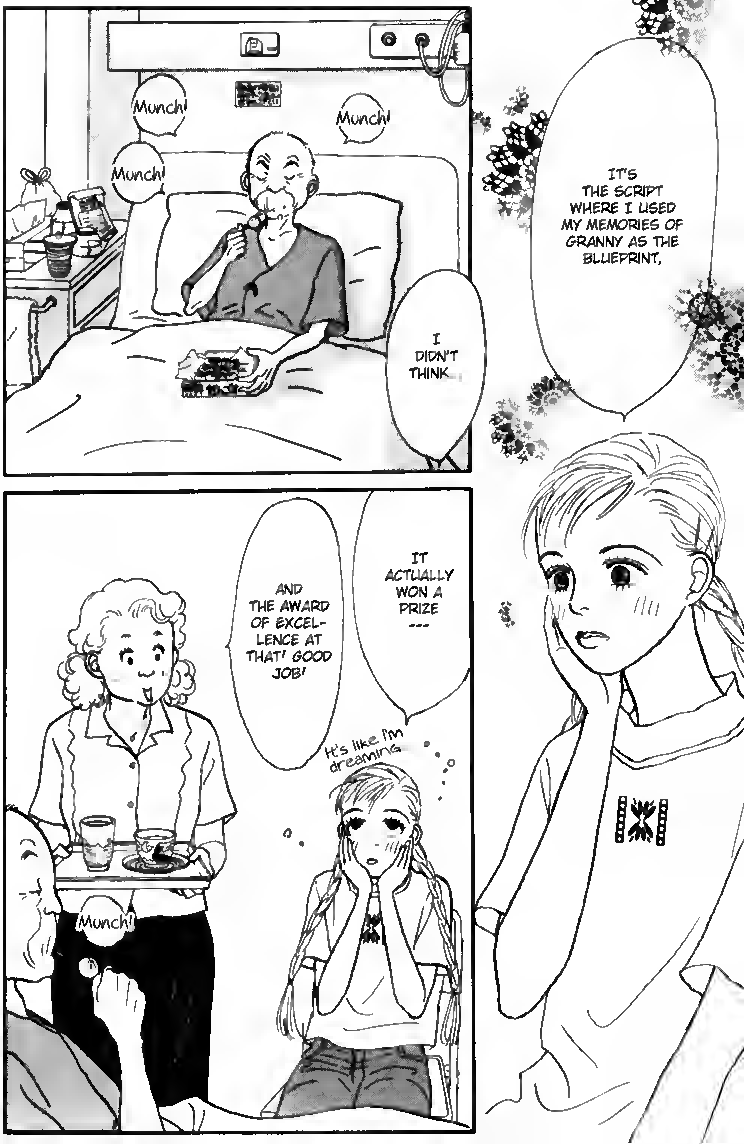
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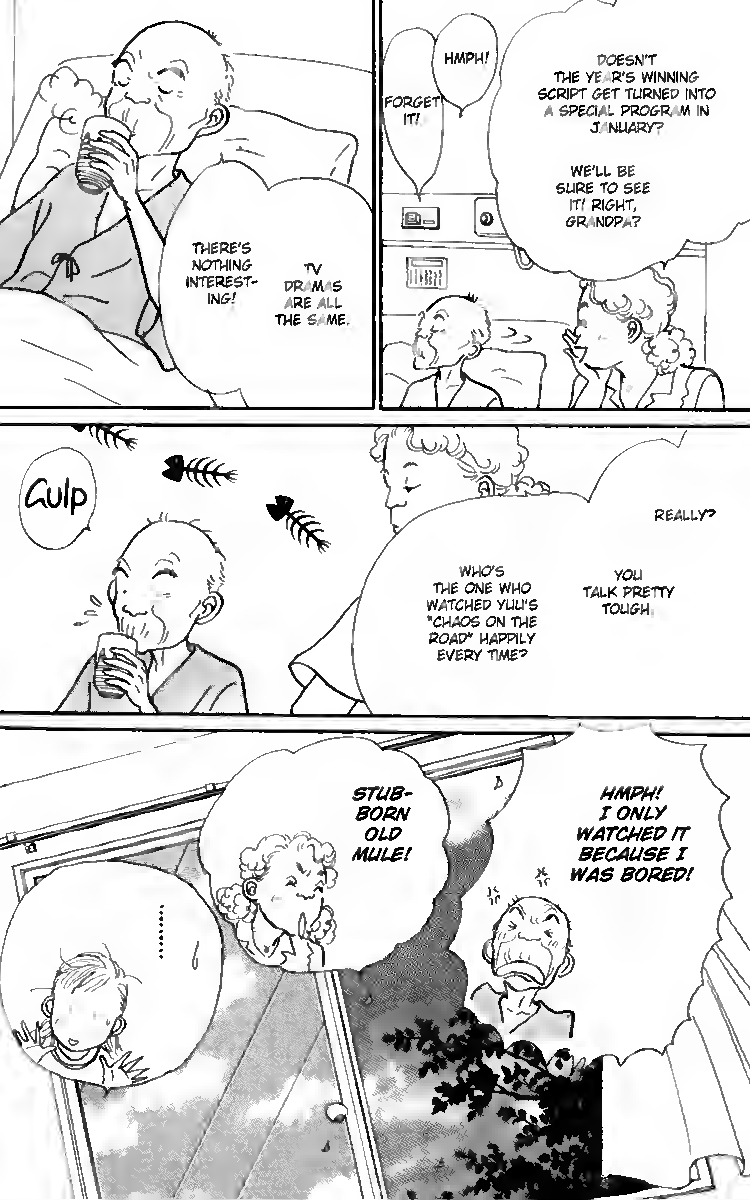
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THE SCRIPT THAT...
...I SUBMITTED...
...WON THE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE?!
ASHITA NO OUSAMA
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明日の王様 ⑤
ASHITA NO OUSAMA
UNIT 34
谷地恵美子

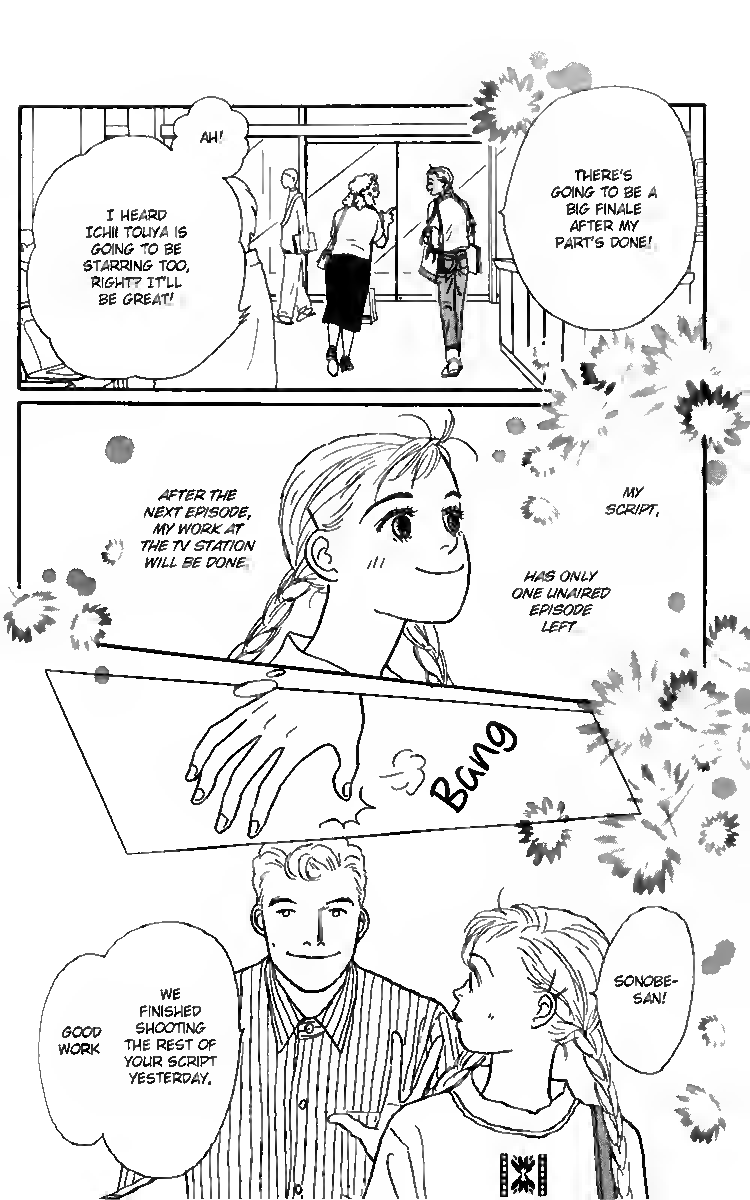



Munch!
Munch!
Munch!
I DIDN'T THINK...
IT'S THE SCRIPT WHERE I USED MY MEMORIES OF GRANNY AS THE BLUEPRINT.
IT ACTUALLY WON A PRIZE ---
AND THE AWARD OF EXCEL-LENCE AT THAT! GOOD JOB!
It's like I'm dreaming.
Munch!


THERE'S NOTHING INTERESTING!
TV DRAMAS ARE ALL THE SAME.
HMPH!
FORGET IT!
DOESN'T THE YEAR'S WINNING SCRIPT GET TURNED INTO A SPECIAL PROGRAM IN JANUARY?
WE'LL BE SURE TO SEE IT! RIGHT, GRANDPA?
GULP
REALLY?
WHO'S THE ONE WHO WATCHED YUU'S "CHAOS ON THE ROAD" HAPPILY EVERY TIME?
YOU TALK PRETTY TOUGH.
STUBBORN OLD MULE!
HMPH! I ONLY WATCHED IT BECAUSE I WAS BORED!


IS IT REALLY BAD?
HE'S GETTING ON IN YEARS, AND IT'S NOT JUST HIS HEART ANY MORE, BUT THE REST OF HIS BODY...
Hee!
IT'S HIS OWN FAULT THAT HE NEVER LIKED GOING TO THE DOCTORS!
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL USE THIS OPPORTUNITY AT THE HOSPITAL TO GET THE DOCTORS TO GIVE HIM A THOROUGH LOOK-OVER.
THAT'S ONLY ON THE OUTSIDE!
HE LOOKS A LOT BETTER!
BUT... IT'S A SHAME...
GRANDPA AND I WAITED FOR EVERY EPISODE
YOUR "CHAOS ON THE ROAD" WILL FINISH AIRING NEXT MONTH...

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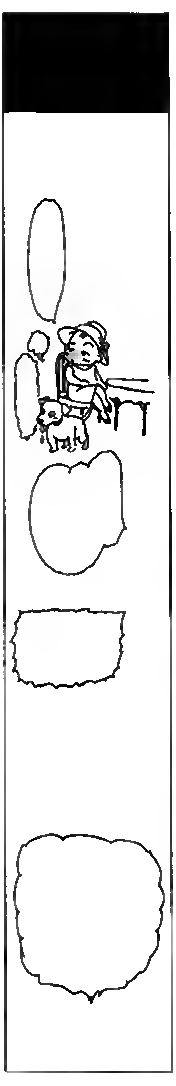

AH!
I HEARD ICHII TOUYA IS GOING TO BE STARRING TOO, RIGHT? IT'LL BE GREAT!
THERE'S GOING TO BE A BIG FINALE AFTER MY PART'S DONE!
AFTER THE NEXT EPISODE, MY WORK AT THE TV STATION WILL BE DONE.
MY SCRIPT, HAS ONLY ONE UNAIRED EPISODE LEFT.
Bang
SONOBE-SAN!
WE FINISHED SHOOTING THE REST OF YOUR SCRIPT YESTERDAY.
GOOD WORK


THE RESULTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC YET---
H-HOW DID YOU KNOW?
NO SURPRISE THAT YOU WON STV'S BIG AWARD.
AFTER ALL, IT IS THE MOST ATTENTION GRABBING SCRIPT THAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT IN OUR CIRCLE -- THE SCRIPT WRITTEN BY SASAYA YUU
BE MORE ALERT, YOU'RE GOING TO BE A LOT BUSIER NOW!
HAHAHA, NEWS TRAVELS FAST IN OUR BUSINESS IT'S ALREADY A WELL-KNOWN FACT!
BUSY?
.....
OF COURSE! EVERY PRODUCTION COMPANY'S GOING TO BE VYING FOR YOUR SCRIPT, YOU'RE GOING TO BE SO BUSY THAT THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH TIME TO BREATHE!


FOR ME, I'M STILL VERY, VERY, VERY MUCH IN LOVE WITH THE STAGE!
I'M GOING BACK TO THE STAGE ONCE THIS IS FINISHED!
THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME I'LL ACCEPT WORK IN TV,
THEN WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE THIS TIME?
Very honest
NOT MY CUP OF TEA
OUR EXPECTATIONS MIGHT'VE BEEN A LITTLE TOO HARSH, BUT...
THEN... MAYBE IT'S A LITTLE TOO LATE TO SAY THIS...
BUT...
IT'S OKAY, I KNOW THERE ARE A LOT OF PLACES WHERE I NEED TO LEARN AND IMPROVE!
BUT WE MEANT IT TO BE FOR YOUR OWN GOOD...


COMPARED TO WORKING WITH TELEVISION, I STILL ENJOY PROCESS OF CREATING SOMETHING ON THE STAGE WITH MY FRIENDS!
WORKING WITH OUR OWN HANDS, WATCHING A PLAY SLOWLY TAKING SHAPE.
THE FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IS WONDERFUL!
EXTREMELY NERVOUS
Is it possible...
YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE SEEN YESTERDAY'S FILMING IN PERSON.
THERE'S ACTUALLY PEOPLE WHO DISLIKE TV WORK THIS MUCH, SO RARE...
Is it really that rare?
Aah...
I'm not really brave enough to go..
I MADE A BIG MISTAKE THE LAST TIME, SO..


Hahaha!
TV DRAMAS AREN'T AS SIMPLE AS YOU MIGHT THINK!
?
Gasp
THEN, PLEASE PAY EXTRA ATTENTION WHEN IT'S AIRED, I PROMISE YOU'RE IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE!
SASAYA YUU-SAN!
Ah! We found her!
?
?
BYE!
AH?
click


CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING STV'S SCRIPT COMPETITION'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE!
ANY THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS?
click
Ah
Uh
click
According to sources--
YOU WERE ONE STEP SHORT FROM BEATING KAZUMA RIN'S SCRIPT FOR "CHAOS ON THE ROADS" AND FURTHERMORE, HE MANAGED TO ADD ICHII TOUYA'S ACTING SKILLS TO HIS ARSENAL, DOUBLING HIS SUCCESS-- DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TO COMBAT THIS?!
WHY ISN'T TOUYA-KUN APPEARING IN SOMETHING WRITTEN BY YOU?


THEY SAID IT WAS GONNA BE ABOUT THE PRIZE,
BUT THE SUBJECT OF THE INTERVIEWS KEPT CIRCLING AROUND TOUYA-SAN.
Hahaha.


THE PERSON WHO JUST STORMED OUT... WASN'T THAT TOUYA'S MANAGER, KINA-SAN?
WHY'S SHE ALL WORKED UP LIKE THAT?
SLAM
THAT... I THINK IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S NOT HAPPY WITH THE ROLE I WROTE FOR TOUYA IN THE SPECIAL EPISODE.
HOW'S HE TAKING IT?
Heh, heh, heh
HE DEALT WITH THE SCRIPT TWO DAYS AGO, BUT..
AH!
THAT'S NO SURPRISE, THIS CHARACTER IS HONESTLY A LITTLE TOO DIFFERENT FROM TOUYA'S USUAL ROLES.

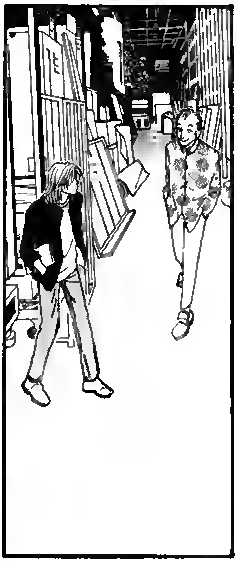
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I HEARD TOUYA'S STILL STUCK IN CHARACTER...
Cold
Grin
Messes up
hair
THAT'S ENOUGH!
STOP GLARING AT ME!
HNN!
Sinister
YOU SEEM TO BE PRETTY FIRED UP, BABY
I TOLD YOU TO NOT TALK TO ME LIKE THAT ANYMORE!
WHAT IF YOU GO TOO FAR IN CHARACTER AND CAN'T REVERT BACK!?

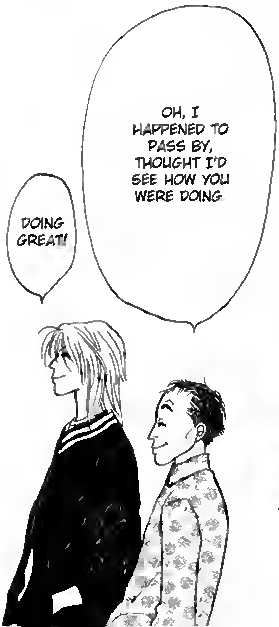

What a load of crap! What the hell kind of actor can't go in and out of character as he pleases!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
WHAT THE HELL IS KAZUMA RIN PLOTTING?! HE DARES GIVE TOUYA THIS DESPICABLE CHARACTER...
IF THIS KEEPS UP, ICHI! TOUYA'S REPUTATION WILL BE RUINED!
HEY, BACK UP! Come on
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY? AM I SO USELESS THAT ONE LITTLE CHARACTER'S GOING TO RUIN ME?!


!
THAT'S WHY I TRIED SO HARD TO GET AS MANY GOOD JOBS FOR YOU AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT YOU GET THE GOOD REVIEWS YOU DESERVE! I KNOW NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF CHARACTER YOU GET, YOU CAN DO IT EFFORTLESSLY...
I'M THE PERSON WHO TRUSTS YOUR TALENT THE MOST!
THEN WHAT DID YOU MEAN? OH, I GET IT, YOU JUST DON'T THINK I HAVE THE SKILLS!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF CHARACTER?
EFFORTLESSLY?
NEVER!
WHEN HAVE I EVER SAID ANY CHARACTER I'VE PLAYED WAS EASY?!


Pissed off
TOUYA!!



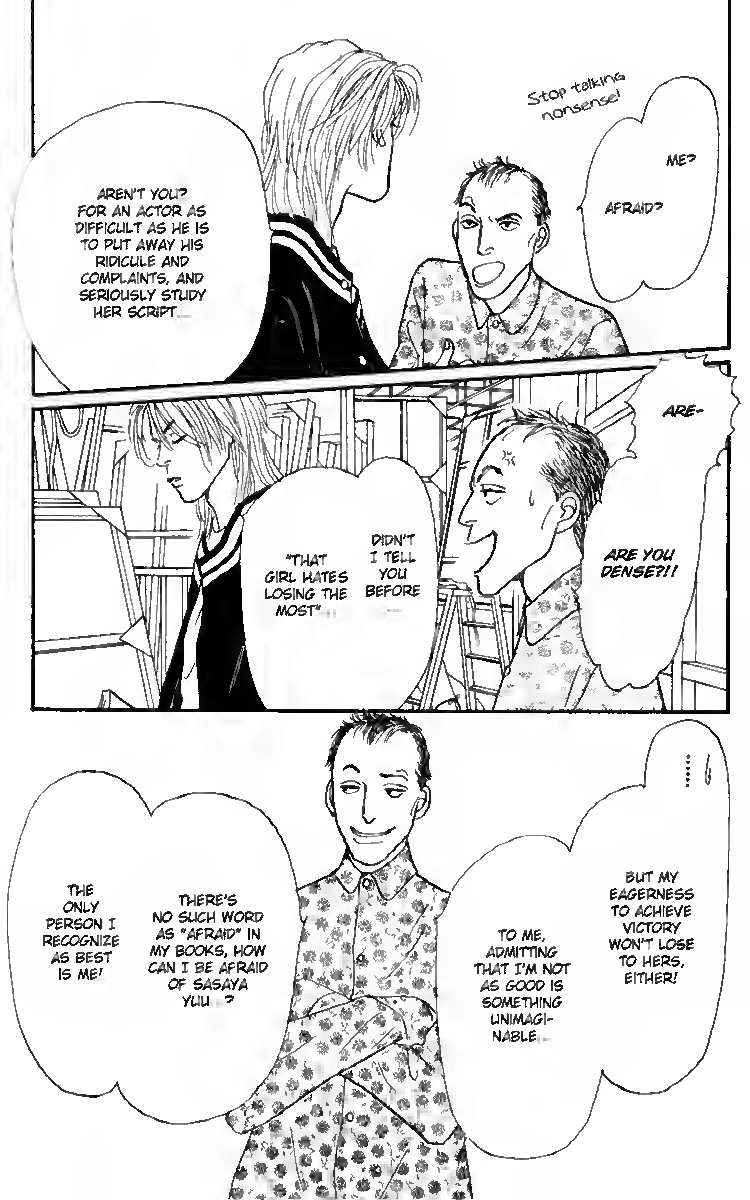

HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


OH, I HAPPENED TO PASS BY, THOUGHT I'D SEE HOW YOU WERE DOING
DOING GREAT!


Right
on
mark
VERY GOOD
BUT DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THIS ROLE, IT'S NOT JUST THE EYES THAT YOU HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE IN ME?
NO HARM IN TELLING YOU I GUESS... I JUST DON'T WANT TO LOSE.
I'M NOT SOMEONE WHO CUTS CORNERS LIKE THAT!
I'M GLAD
THIS SPECIAL EPISODE IS MY HEART'S WORK, I HOPE YOU CAN PUT SOME EXTRA EFFORT INTO IT TOO
LOSE?
A WHILE AGO, SASAYA YUJI'S "CHAOS ON THE ROAD" FINISHED SHOOTING ITS LAST EPISODE...


KOBASHI DIDN'T THROW A SINGLE AD-LIB THIS TIME...
?
I HEARD SOME RUMORS FROM THE STAFF...
THAT'S RIGHT.
IN THE END, IT'S THE FIRST TIME THAT HER SCRIPT HAS NEVER BEEN CHANGED,
SHE PASSED WITHOUT EVEN ONE COMPLAINT.


DID YOU HEAR?
WHEN WE FIRST OPENED HER SCRIPT, ALL THE ACTORS ON SET WERE COMPLETELY SILENT
YOU CAN TELL HOW RARE IT WAS JUST FROM THE FACT THAT KOBASHI DIDN'T PITCH IN ANY SINGLE AD-LIB.
Hmph!
I NEVER THOUGHT ANYONE BUT ME COULD ACCOMPLISH THAT, I DIDN'T THINK...
.....
WHAT? ARE YOU AFRAID?


Stop talking nonsense!
ME?
AFRAID?
AREN'T YOU? FOR AN ACTOR AS DIFFICULT AS HE IS TO PUT AWAY HIS RIDICULE AND COMPLAINTS, AND SERIOUSLY STUDY HER SCRIPT...
ARE-
ARE YOU DENSE?!!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE
"THAT GIRL HATES LOSING THE MOST"...
.....
BUT MY EAGERNESS TO ACHIEVE VICTORY WON'T LOSE TO HERS, EITHER!
TO ME, ADMITTING THAT I'M NOT AS GOOD IS SOMETHING UNIMAGI-NABLE...
THERE'S NO SUCH WORD AS "AFRAID" IN MY BOOKS, HOW CAN I BE AFRAID OF SASAYA YUU...?
THE ONLY PERSON I RECOGNIZE AS BEST IS ME!

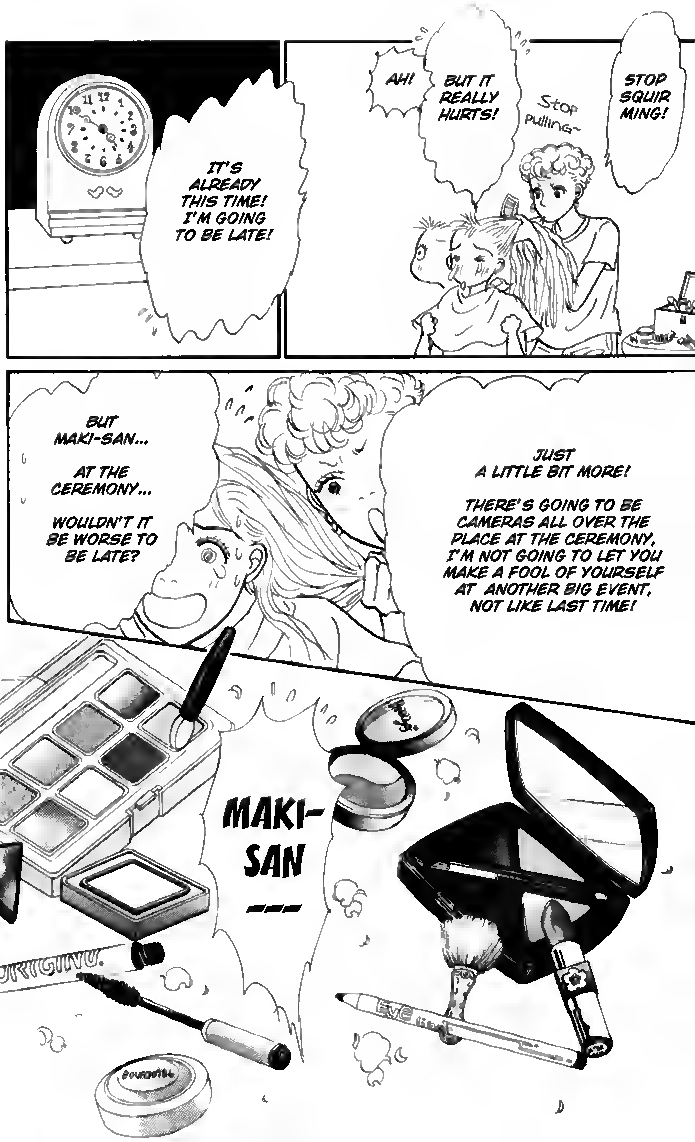

WHAT AN EGO-TISTICAL GUY...
THAT'S WHY, I GOTTA MAKE SOMETHING CLEAR...
YOU AND I NOT GETTING ALONG IS ONE THING, AND BEING ALLIED WITH SASAYA IS NO PROBLEM EITHER, BUT, IF YOU DELIBERATELY MESS UP THIS TIME, I'M NEVER GOING TO LET YOU LIVE IT DOWN...


TOLYA, GET READY FOR THE SHOOT...
Ah, so you're here.
Backs off
ASSHOLE!
Don't underestimate me!
I've never even thought of doing something like that!


W-!
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THESE TWO?
Hey, hey!

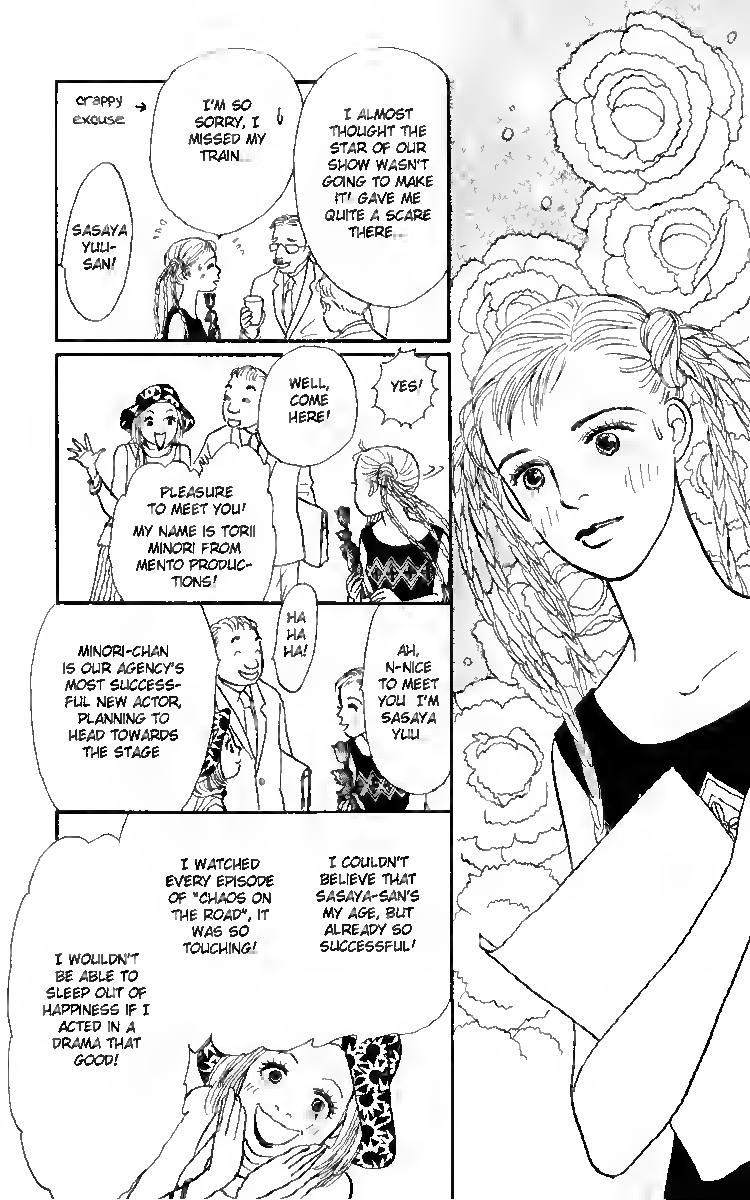

I'M NEVER GOING TO GIVE UP
IN THE END OF IT ALL,
YOUR SCRIPT,
FINALLY WON APPROVAL

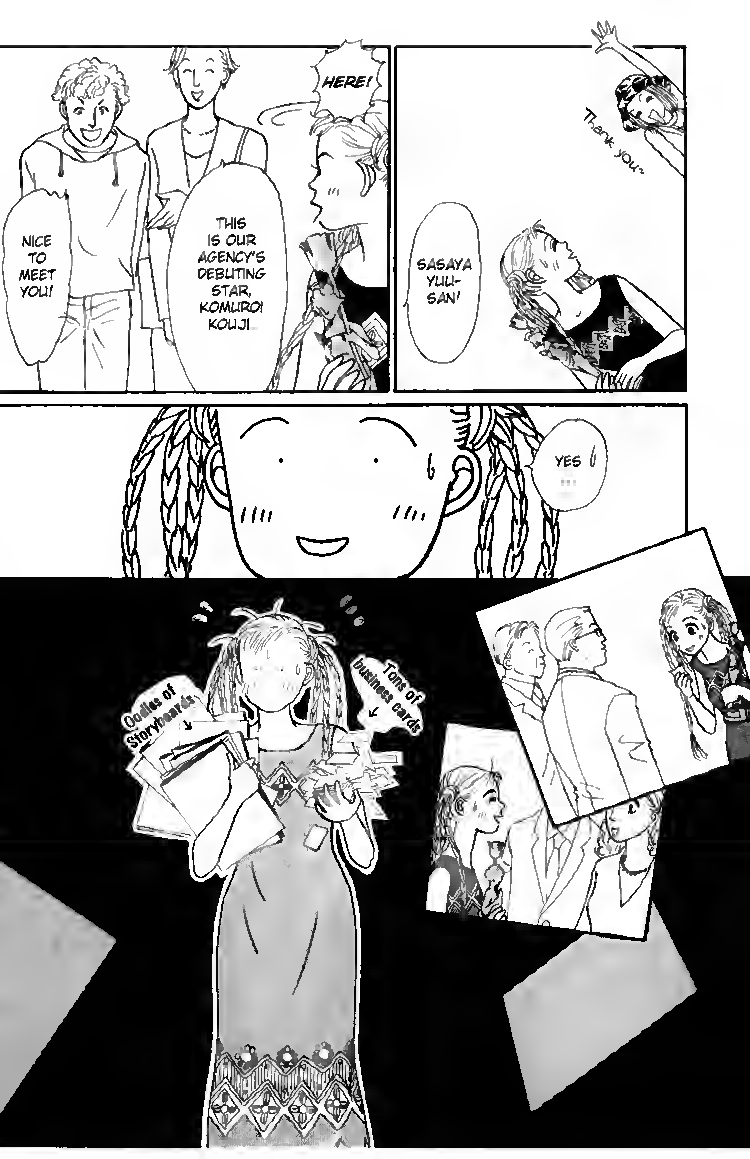

CONGRATULATIONS.
OW!
IT HURTS!
MAKI-SAN! YOU'RE KILLING ME??

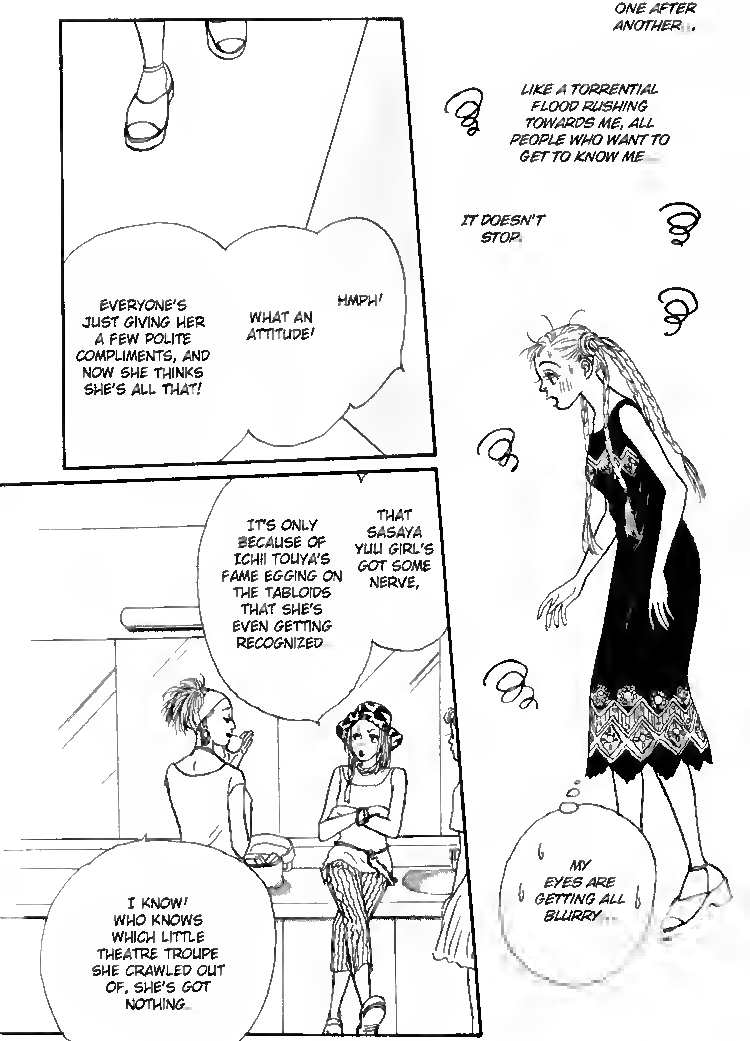

IT'S ALREADY THIS TIME! I'M GOING TO BE LATE!
AH!
BUT IT REALLY HURTS!
Stop Pulling~
STOP SQUIRMING!
BUT MAKI-SAN...
AT THE CEREMONY...
WOULDN'T IT BE WORSE TO BE LATE?
JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE!
THERE'S GOING TO BE CAMERAS ALL OVER THE PLACE AT THE CEREMONY, I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU MAKE A FOOL OF YOURSELF AT ANOTHER BIG EVENT, NOT LIKE LAST TIME!
MAKI-SAN

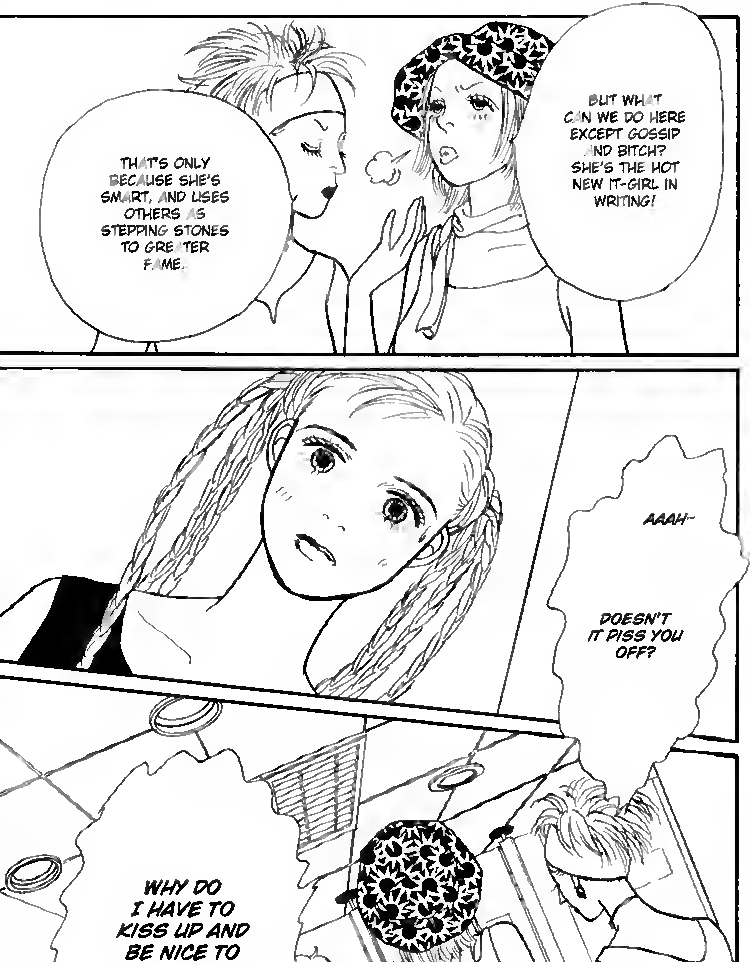


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crappy excuse
I'M SO SORRY, I MISSED MY TRAIN...
I ALMOST THOUGHT THE STAR OF OUR SHOW WASN'T GOING TO MAKE IT! GAVE ME QUITE A SCARE THERE...
SASAYA YUU-SAN!
WELL, COME HERE!
YES!
PLEASURE TO MEET YOU! MY NAME IS TORII MINORI FROM MENTO PRODUC-TIONS!
HA HA HA!
MINORI-CHAN IS OUR AGENCY'S MOST SUCCESS-FUL NEW ACTOR, PLANNING TO HEAD TOWARDS THE STAGE
AH, N-NICE TO MEET YOU! I'M SASAYA YUU
I WATCHED EVERY EPISODE OF "CHAOS ON THE ROAD", IT WAS SO TOUCHING!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT SASAYA-SAN'S MY AGE, BUT ALREADY SO SUCCESSFUL!
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP OUT OF HAPPINESS IF I ACTED IN A DRAMA THAT GOOD!

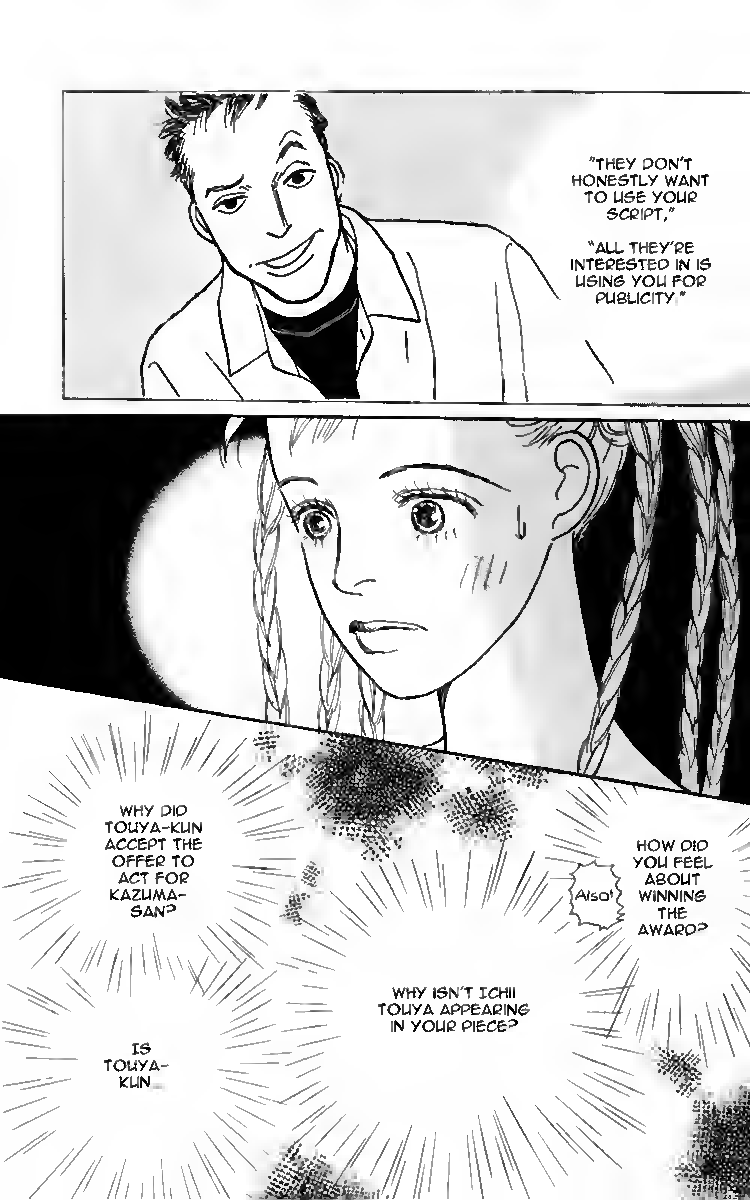

HERE!
THIS IS OUR AGENCY'S DEBUTING STAR, KOMURO KOUJI.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
Thank you.
SASAYA YUU-SAN!
YES
Oodles of Storyboards
Tons of business cards


ONE AFTER ANOTHER...
LIKE A TORRENTIAL FLOOD RUSHING TOWARDS ME, ALL PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GET TO KNOW ME...
IT DOESN'T STOP.
MY EYES ARE GETTING ALL BLURRY...
EVERYONE'S JUST GIVING HER A FEW POLITE COMPLIMENTS, AND NOW SHE THINKS SHE'S ALL THAT!
WHAT AN ATTITUDE!
HMPH!
THAT SASAYA YUU GIRL'S GOT SOME NERVE,
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF ICHI TOUYA'S FAME EGGING ON THE TABLOIDS THAT SHE'S EVEN GETTING RECOGNIZED...
I KNOW! WHO KNOWS WHICH LITTLE THEATRE TROUPE SHE CRAWLED OUT OF, SHE'S GOT NOTHING...


BUT WHAT CAN WE DO HERE EXCEPT GOSSIP AND BITCH? SHE'S THE HOT NEW IT-GIRL IN WRITING!
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE SHE'S SMART, AND USES OTHERS AS STEPPING STONES TO GREATER FAME.
AAAH-
DOESN'T IT PISS YOU OFF?
WHY DO I HAVE TO KISS UP AND BE NICE TO SOMEONE LIKE THAT?


GRANNY,
I KNOW RUMORS CAN'T BE AVOIDED, AND THEY SHOULDN'T BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY,
BUT---

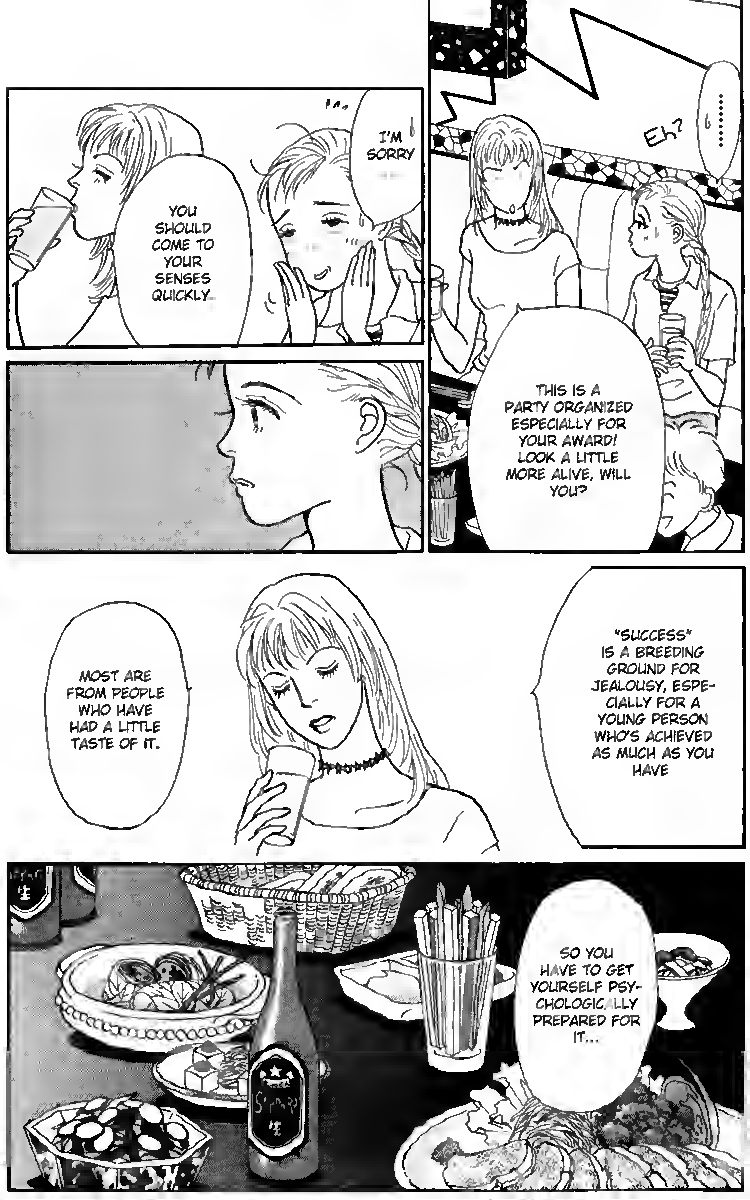

HEARING IT SAID OUT LOUD,
STILL HURTS
BECAUSE THEY POINTED OUT SOMETHING I DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT.
THAT
I DON'T ACTUALLY REALLY FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT ANY OF MY WORK.
Ichii Touya transforms into female for stage!!
STIRRED THINGS UP A LITTLE.
ALSO, TOUYA-SAN ON STAGE THAT TIME,
FEELS MORE LIKE A SCANDAL ...


"THEY DON'T HONESTLY WANT TO USE YOUR SCRIPT,"
"ALL THEY'RE INTERESTED IN IS USING YOU FOR PUBLICITY."
WHY DID TOUYA-KUN ACCEPT THE OFFER TO ACT FOR KAZUMA-SAN?
Also!
HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT WINNING THE AWARD?
WHY ISN'T ICHII TOUYA APPEARING IN YOUR PIECE?
IS TOUYA-KUN

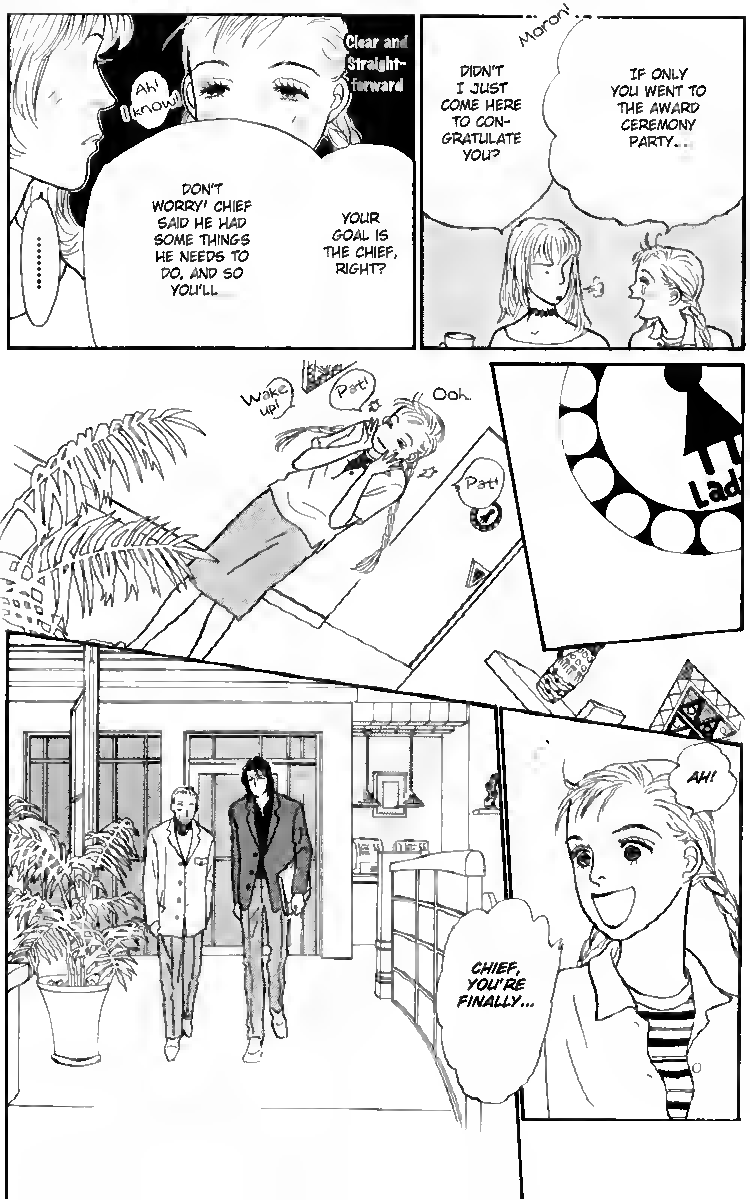


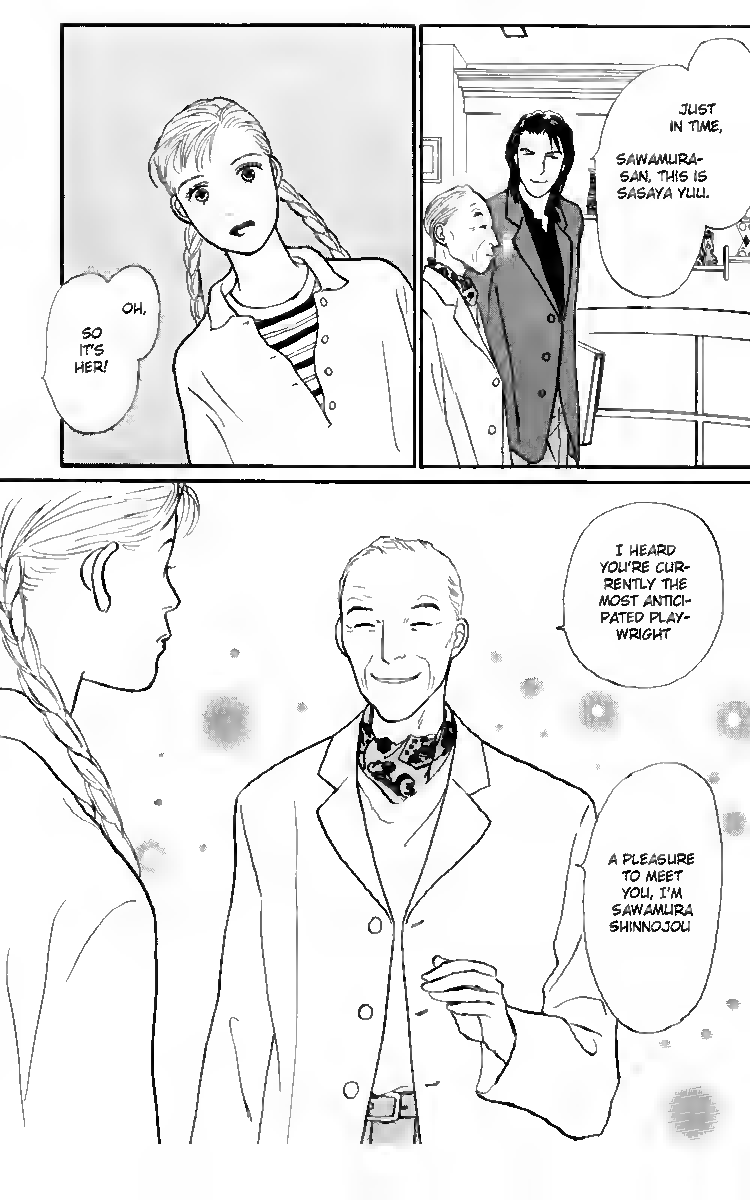
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CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING THE AWARD!!
EXIT
Great job! Yuu-chan!
LIGHT BUMP
THANK YOU EVERYONE

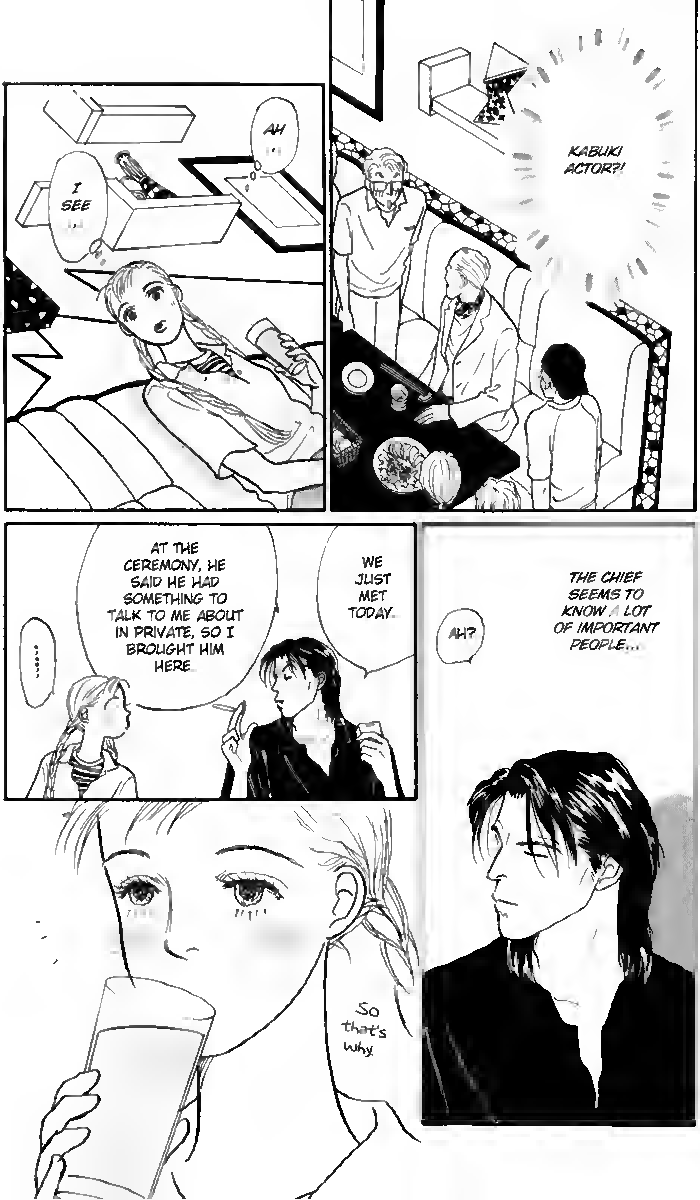

I'M SORRY
YOU SHOULD COME TO YOUR SENSES QUICKLY.
Eh?
.....
THIS IS A PARTY ORGANIZED ESPECIALLY FOR YOUR AWARD! LOOK A LITTLE MORE ALIVE, WILL YOU?
"SUCCESS" IS A BREEDING GROUND FOR JEALOUSY, ESPECIALLY FOR A YOUNG PERSON WHO'S ACHIEVED AS MUCH AS YOU HAVE
MOST ARE FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD A LITTLE TASTE OF IT.
SO YOU HAVE TO GET YOURSELF PSYCHOLOGICALLY PREPARED FOR IT...


RUMORS? WHAT RUMORS? LET THEM TALK, I'M NOT SCARED!
JUST THINKING ABOUT THAT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD, A HIGH YOU CAN ONLY GET FROM BEING ABOVE OTHERS..
THEY'RE JUST JEALOUS OF ME BECAUSE I'M TALENTED AND THEY'RE MEDIOCRE
YEAH! THAT'S IT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK?
.....
I'M TOAS TING TO YOU!
YOU'VE GOT BALLS!
She really can't take any alcohol...
AH HA HA HA HA!

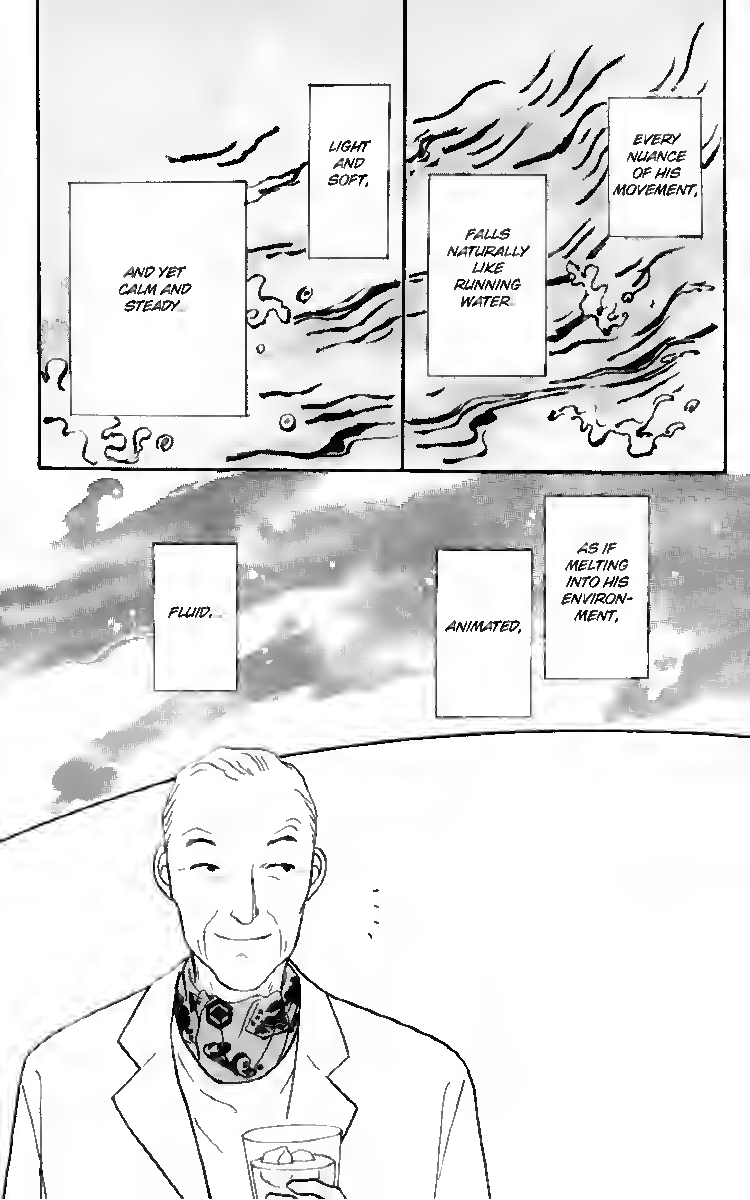

Clear and Straight-forward
Ah! I know!
.....
DON'T WORRY! CHIEF SAID HE HAD SOME THINGS HE NEEDS TO DO, AND SO YOU'LL
YOUR GOAL IS THE CHIEF, RIGHT?
Moron!
DIDN'T I JUST COME HERE TO CON-GRATULATE YOU?
IF ONLY YOU WENT TO THE AWARD CEREMONY PARTY...
Wake up!
Pat!
Ooh
Pat!
AH!
CHIEF, YOU'RE FINALLY...


OH,
SO IT'S HER!
JUST IN TIME,
SAWAMURA-SAN, THIS IS SASAYA YUU.
I HEARD YOU'RE CURRENTLY THE MOST ANTICIPATED PLAYWRIGHT
A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, I'M SAWAMURA SHINNOJOU


SHOCK!
smile
smile
MISORE-SAN, DO YOU KNOW THIS OJISAN?
SA-SAWAMURA
!
THIS IS THE WORLD FAMOUS KABUKI FEMALE ROLE-SPECIALIST! HE'S PRACTICALLY CONSIDERED A NATIONAL TREASURE!
WHAT OJISAN?!
Don't you recognize who he is?!


KABUKI ACTOR?!
AH...
I SEE...
THE CHIEF SEEMS TO KNOW A LOT OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE...
AH?
WE JUST MET TODAY.
AT THE CEREMONY, HE SAID HE HAD SOMETHING TO TALK TO ME ABOUT IN PRIVATE, SO I BROUGHT HIM HERE.
.....
So that's why.


MY EYES...
CAN'T TAKE THEM-SELVES OFF OF HIM!

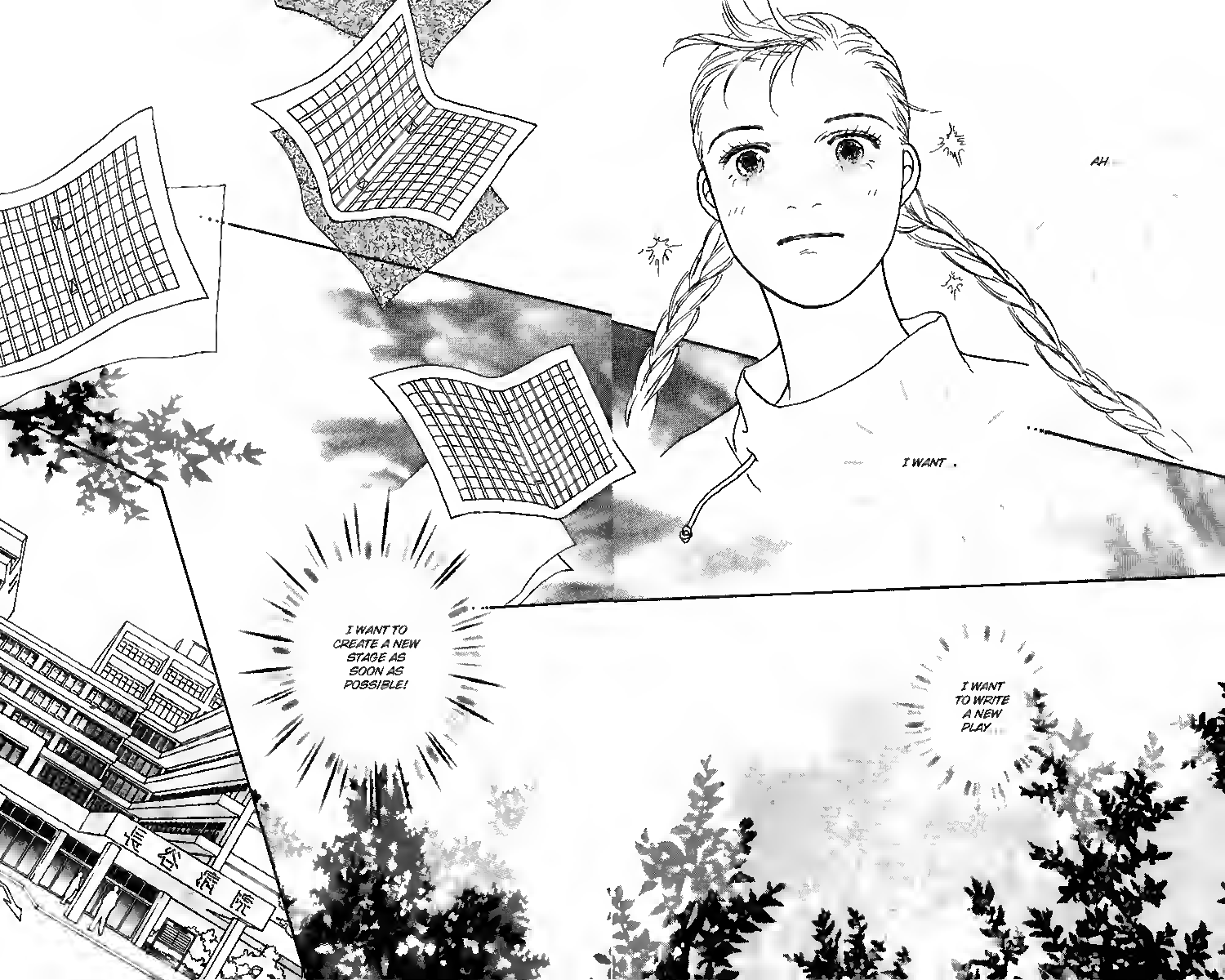

LIGHT AND SOFT,
AND YET CALM AND STEADY.
EVERY NUANCE OF HIS MOVEMENT,
FALLS NATURALLY LIKE RUNNING WATER.
FLUID,
ANIMATED,
AS IF MELTING INTO HIS ENVIRON-MENT,


WHAT'S WRONG, YUU-SAN?
PLEASE TELL ME...
HOW TO MOVE THAT BEAUTIFULLY!
FULL


REALLY, GRANNY,
IT'S LIKE HIS MOVEMENTS MERGED WITH THE VERY AIR ITSELF...
I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S ALREADY 73...
I'M HAPPY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.
SO THERE ARE ACTUALLY GRANDPAS LIKE THAT...


IF THIS DOESN'T HAVE ANY IMPACT,
I PROMISE YOU'LL GET A BIG SURPRISE WHEN IT'S AIRED!
AH...
IT SHOULD BE JUST LIKE THIS...


MY IDEAS...
FINALLY CAME TRUE
IT'S SO TOUCHING!
Right?
THIS IS THE BEST EPISODE!
THANK YOU, EVERYONE!
THANK YOU!
THE TV SECTION OF THE PAPERS GAVE IT A GOOD REVIEW TOO!

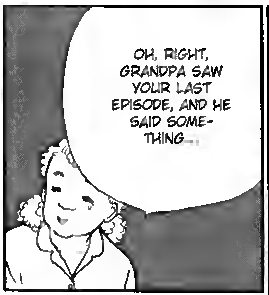

AH
I WANT .
I WANT TO CREATE A NEW STAGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
I WANT TO WRITE A NEW PLAY.


HELLO, HOW ARE YOU TODAY?
Haven't seen you in a while!
EXCUSE ME

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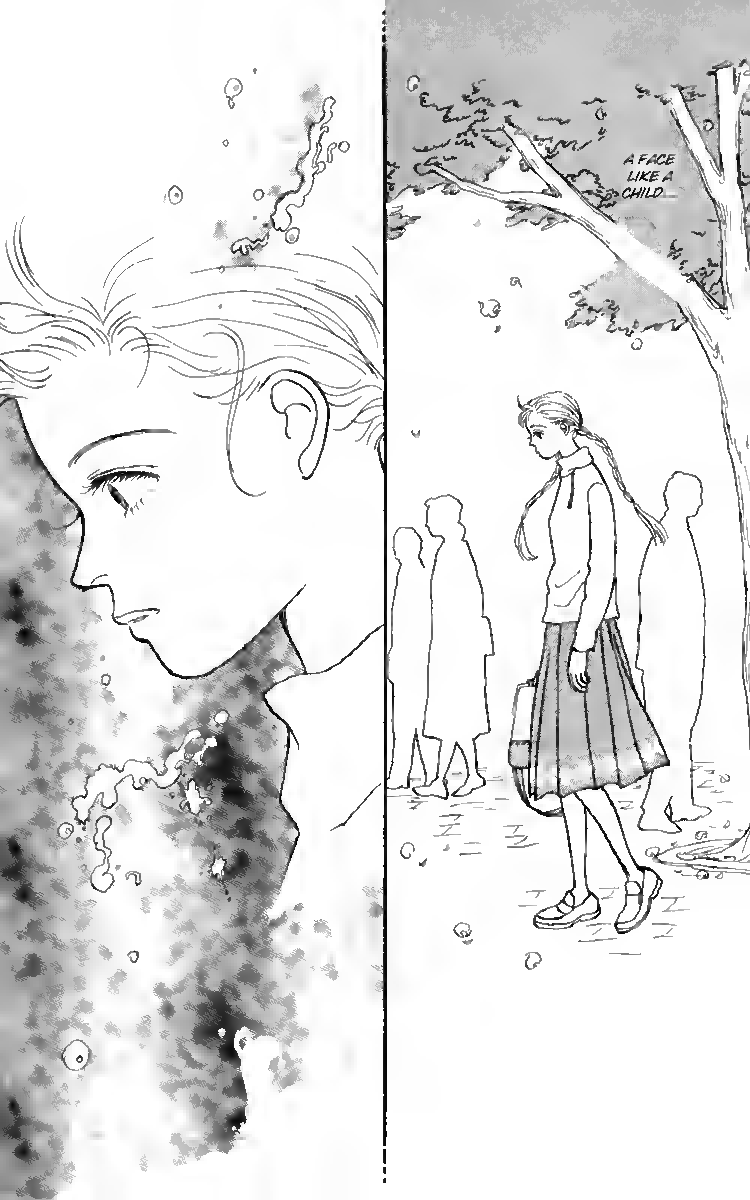







OJICHAN...


IT FEELS AS IF I WENT BACK TO LONG AGO,
ONE MORE TIME
I COULD'VE SEEN THAT PEACEFUL EXPRESSION...
MAYBE,
YOU COULD'VE SEEN MY OTHER PLAYS...
I REALLY WISHED THAT


A FACE
LIKE A
CHILD


A CERTAIN DENSELY WOODED FOREST
WHERE GIANT TREES WITH FLOURISHING LEAVES GROW
AND WHISPERS OF THE FEELINGS OF ANCIENT TREES
SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE CANOPY


AFTER THE LEAVES FALL, FROM BIRTH SPRINGS NEW LIFE.
NEW SPROUTS GROW, AND DISPERSE OVER THE WITHERED GROUNDS.
THUS, THE SEASONS CYCLE END-LESSLY.
IN THE FOREST, THERE IS A LITTLE PATH, MOSTLY COVERED BY PRIMORDIAL GROWTH.
ALONG THIS LITTLE PATH,
UPWARD,
AND UPWARD STILL,


LIES A LITTLE, LITTLE TEA HOUSE...
AT THE END OF THIS LITTLE ROAD,
AND, DISCOVERS THAT,
UNTIL ONE CAN NO LONGER, CATCH THEIR BREATH.





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谷地恵美子

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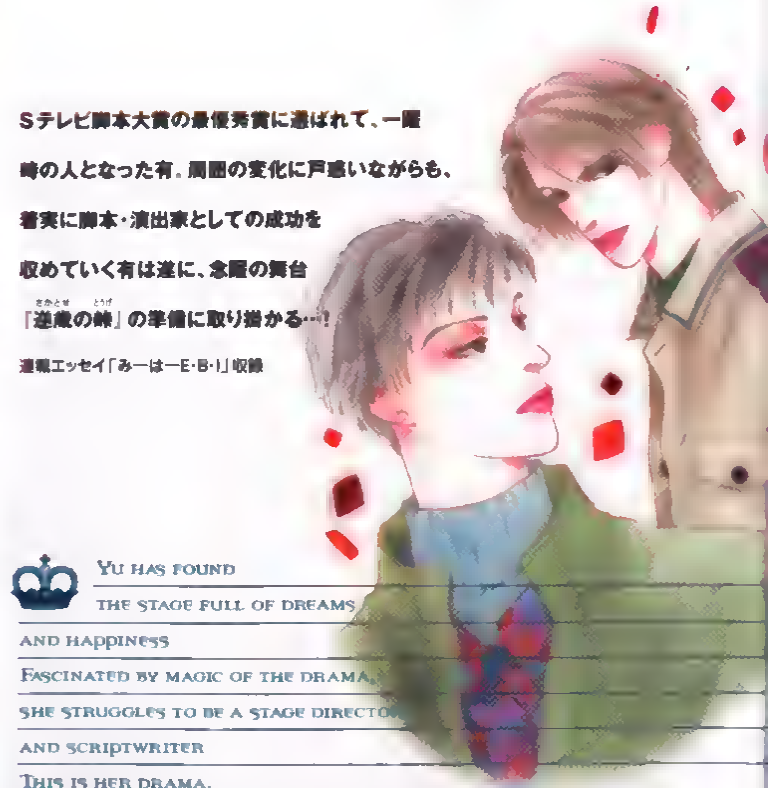
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C0179 ¥619E

定価 本体619円+税

Sテレビ脚本大賞の最優秀賞に選ばれて、一躍
時の人となった有。周囲の変化に戸惑いながらも、
着実に脚本・演出家としての成功を
収めていく有は遂に、念願の舞台
「逆鉾の棒」の準備に取り掛かる…!

連載エッセイ「みーは一E・B・I」収録

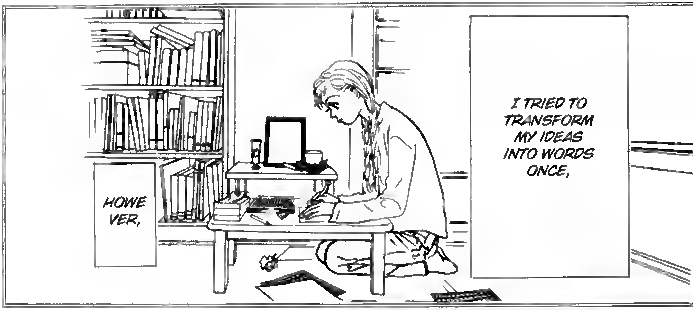


YU HAS FOUND
THE STAGE FULL OF DREAMS
AND HAPPINESS
FASCINATED BY MAGIC OF THE DRAMA,
SHE STRUGGLES TO BE A STAGE DIRECTOR
AND SCRIPTWRITER
THIS IS HER DRAMA.
PRESENTED BY EMIKO-YACHI

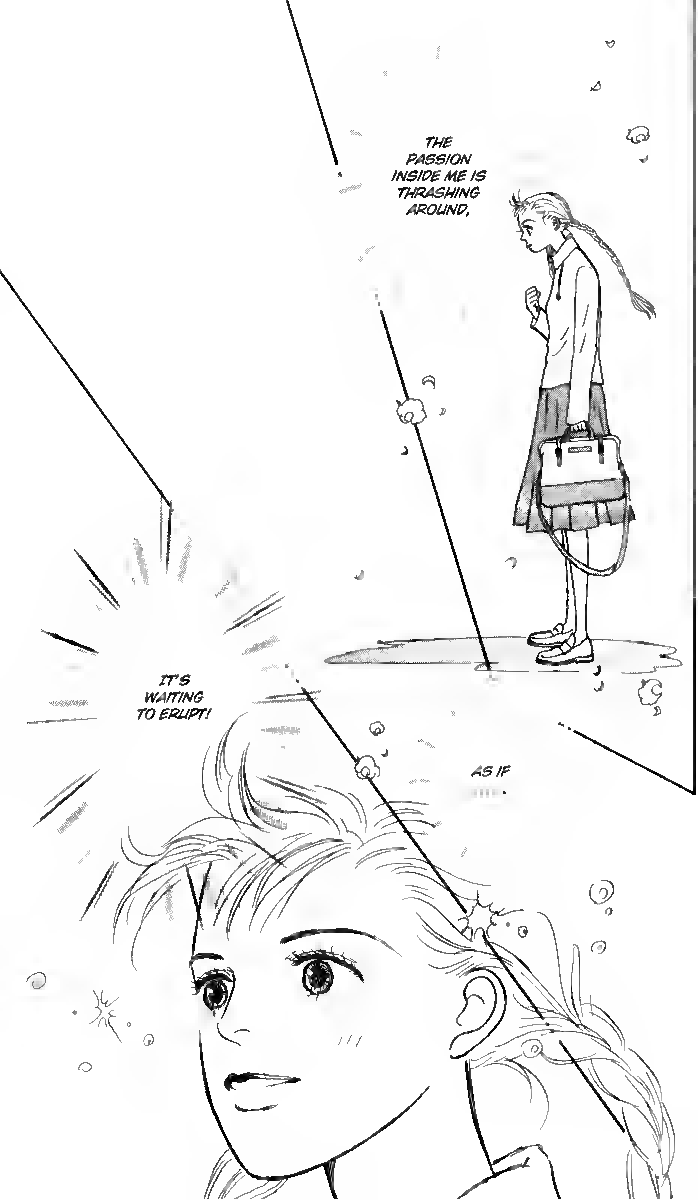

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ASHITA NO OUSAMA
UNIT 35


THERE WILL BE A DAY,
WHEN THE MONODRAMA WILL APPEAR IN MY MIND...
"THE AGE-CHANGING MOUNTAIN PASS"
THE LEAD ROLE MUST BE ME!

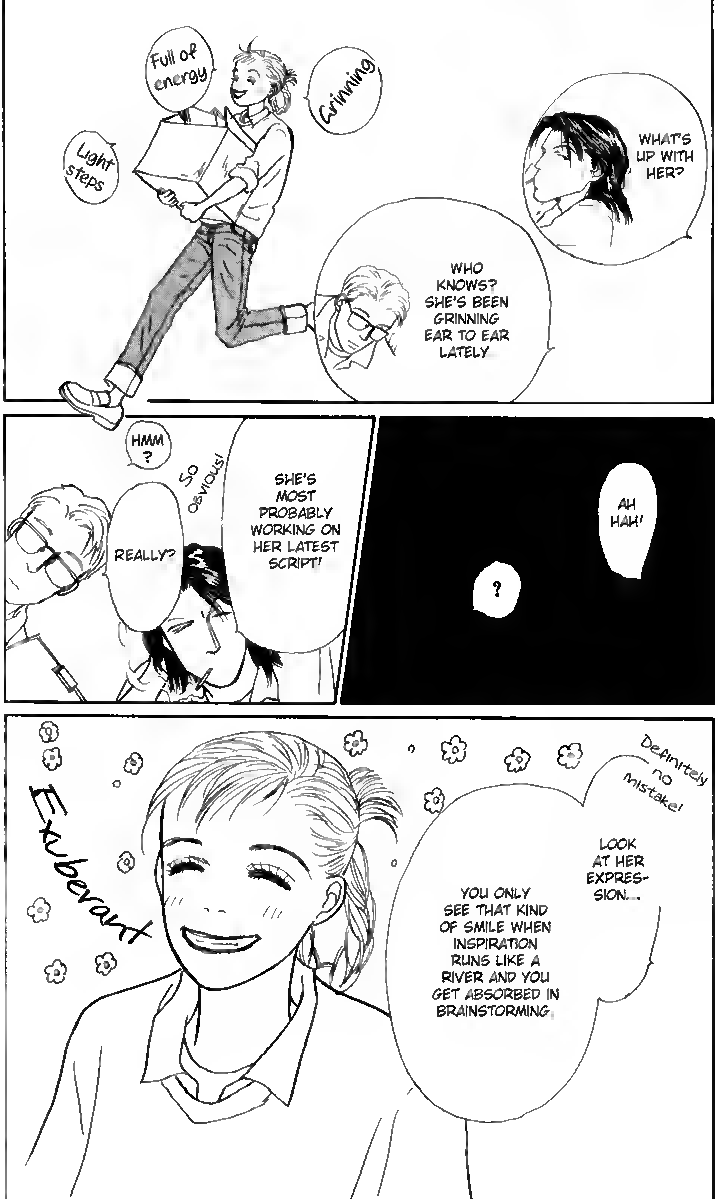
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THE PASSION INSIDE ME IS THRASHING AROUND,
IT'S WAITING TO ERUPT!
AS IF


IF I REALLY COMPLETE THIS STORY, THEN_
TOUYA-SAN!
Kyaa
WHAT TO DO?
MY IMAGINATION IS RUNNING WILD
YAA


Full of energy
Grinning
Light steps
WHO KNOWS? SHE'S BEEN GRINNING EAR TO EAR LATELY
WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
HMM ?
So devious!
REALLY?
SHE'S MOST PROBABLY WORKING ON HER LATEST SCRIPT!
?
AH HAH!
Exuberant
You only see that kind of smile when inspiration runs like a river and you get absorbed in brainstorming.
LOOK AT HER EXPRESSION...
Definitely no mistake!


WHEN IT COMES TO THE REAL WRITING,
HER HAPPY FACE WILL BE COVERED IN TEARS ...
. CHIEF, PLEASE FOCUS ON OUR WORK!
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO REARRANGE THE THIRD SCENE ONE MORE TIME..
AH
I'M OUT OF SMOKES!
I'll go get some!
CHIEF!
KABUKI THEATER

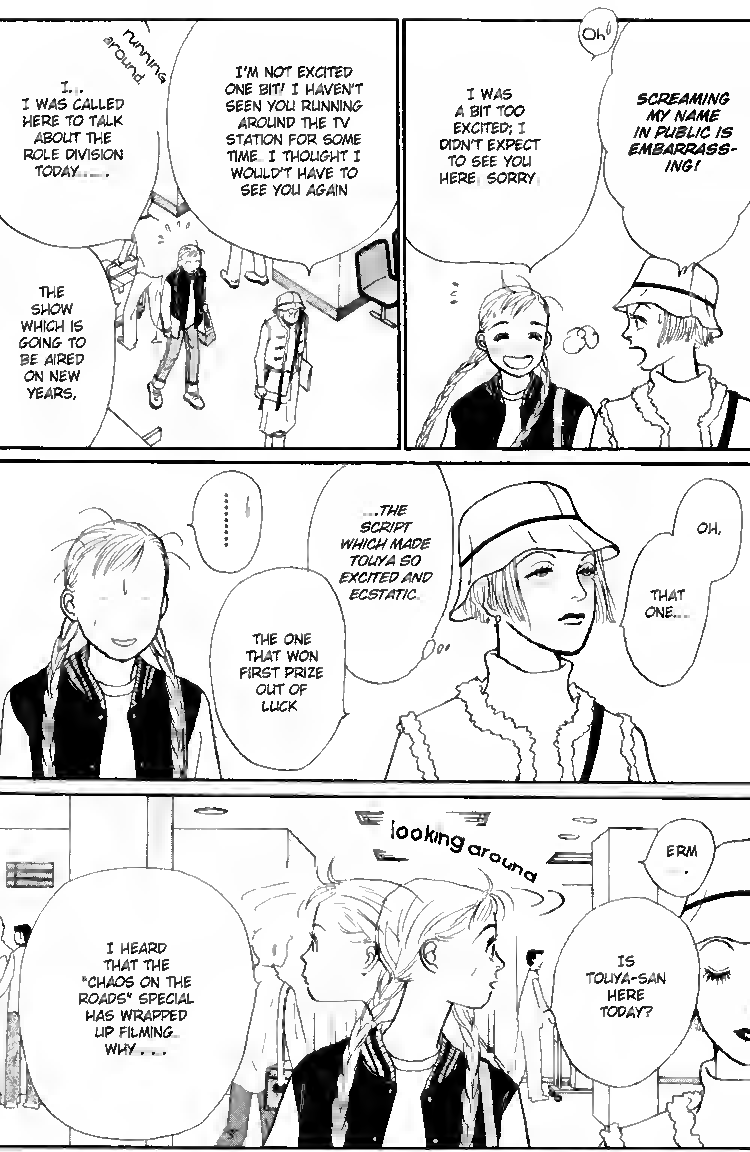

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME WATCHING KABUKI, I'VE JUST REALIZED
What a fantastic show tonight!
THAT INCREDIBLE WORLD,
THERE IS STILL A LOT...
THAT I HAVE TO LEARN
THE INCREDIBLE PEOPLE

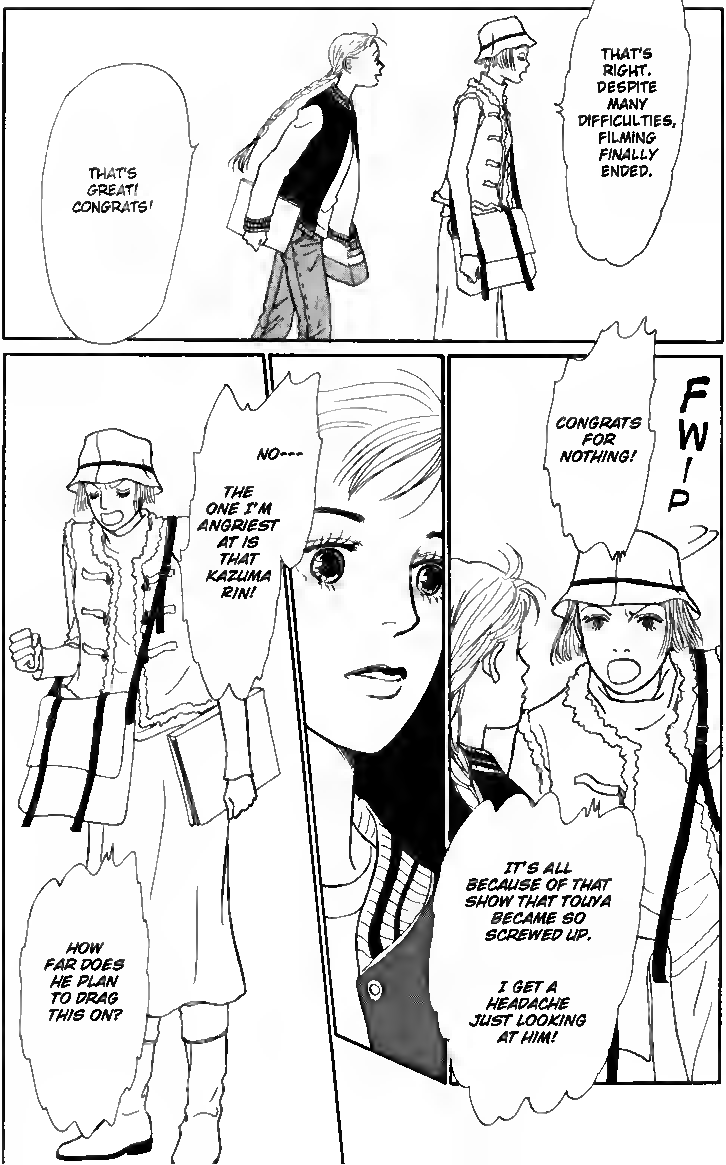

HAS ...
GOT TO BE THAT PERSON ...
OF ALL OF THEM...
THE MOST INCREDIBLE ONE...
LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE, SAWAMURA SHINNOJOU

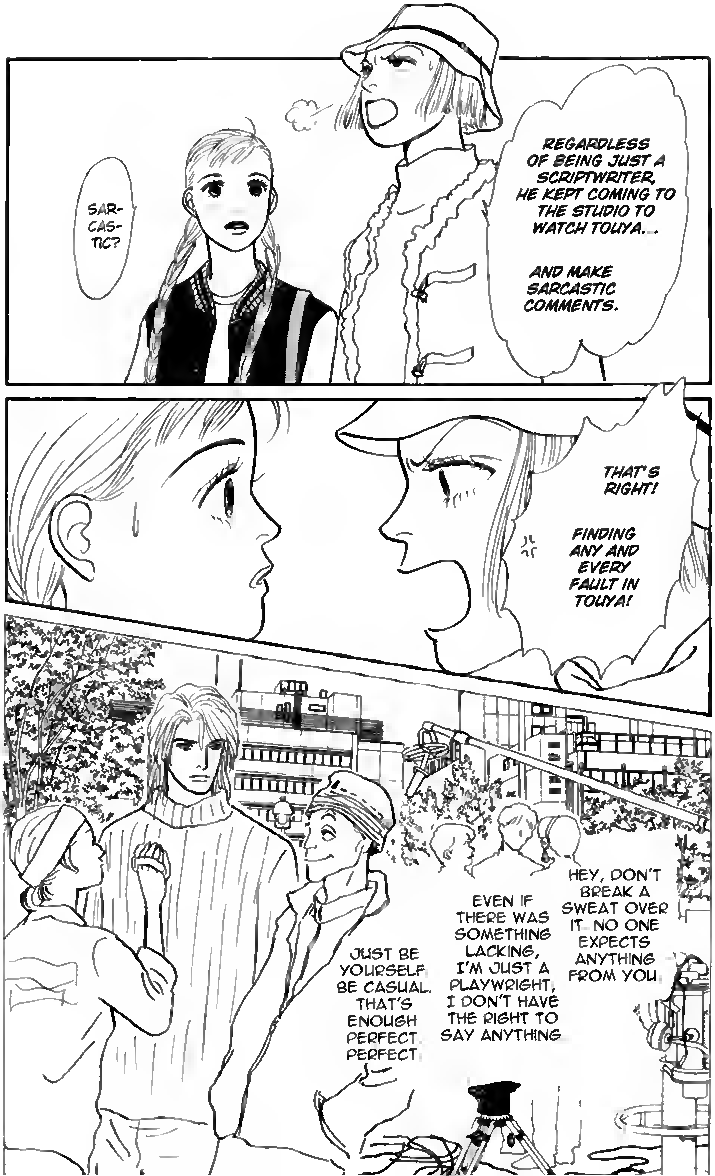

IF I LET THE AUDIENCE FEEL THAT I'M OLD, THEN I'M A FAILURE AS A PERFORMER
HE'S NOT HUMAN.
AT THAT AGE, HE CAN STILL DANCE SO GRACEFULLY, LIKE A DAINTY FAIRY .
WAS IT JUST ME? A COMPLETE NOVICE
I THINK I WAS THE ONLY ONE MY AGE IN THE KABUKI THEATER
THAT'S POSSIBLE
AH
THAT'S RIGHT!
TOUYA-SAN SHOULD WATCH KABUKI TOO THIS SHOULD HELP HIM A LOT!

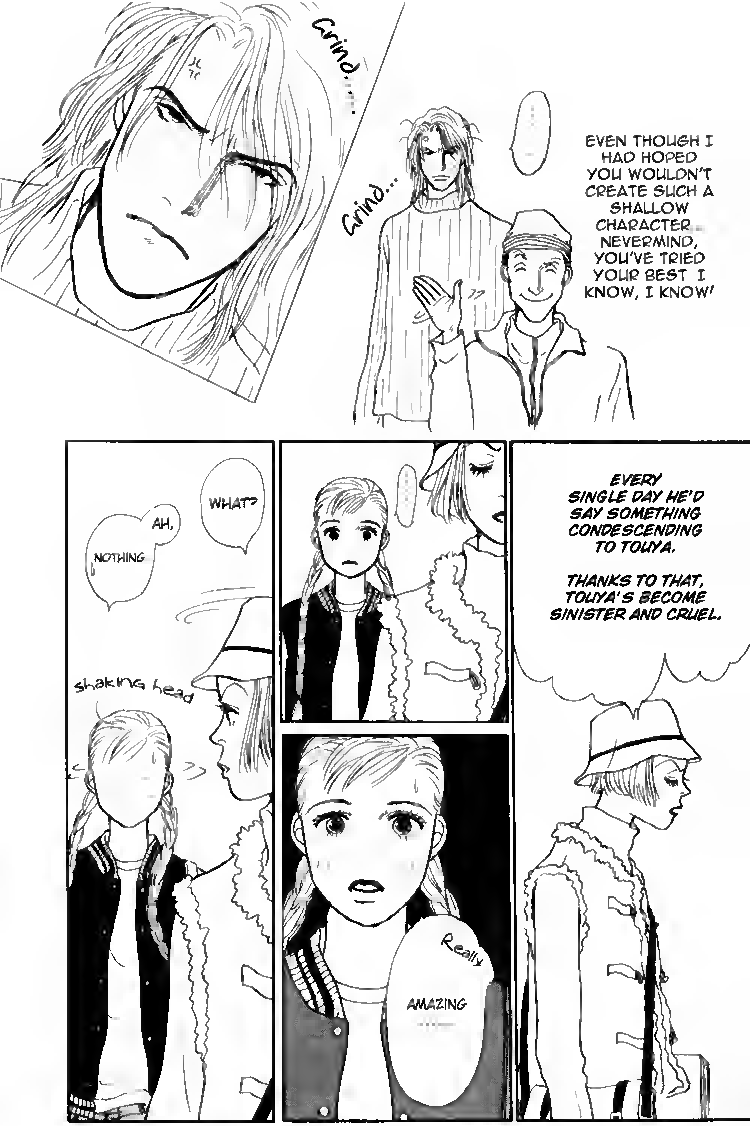


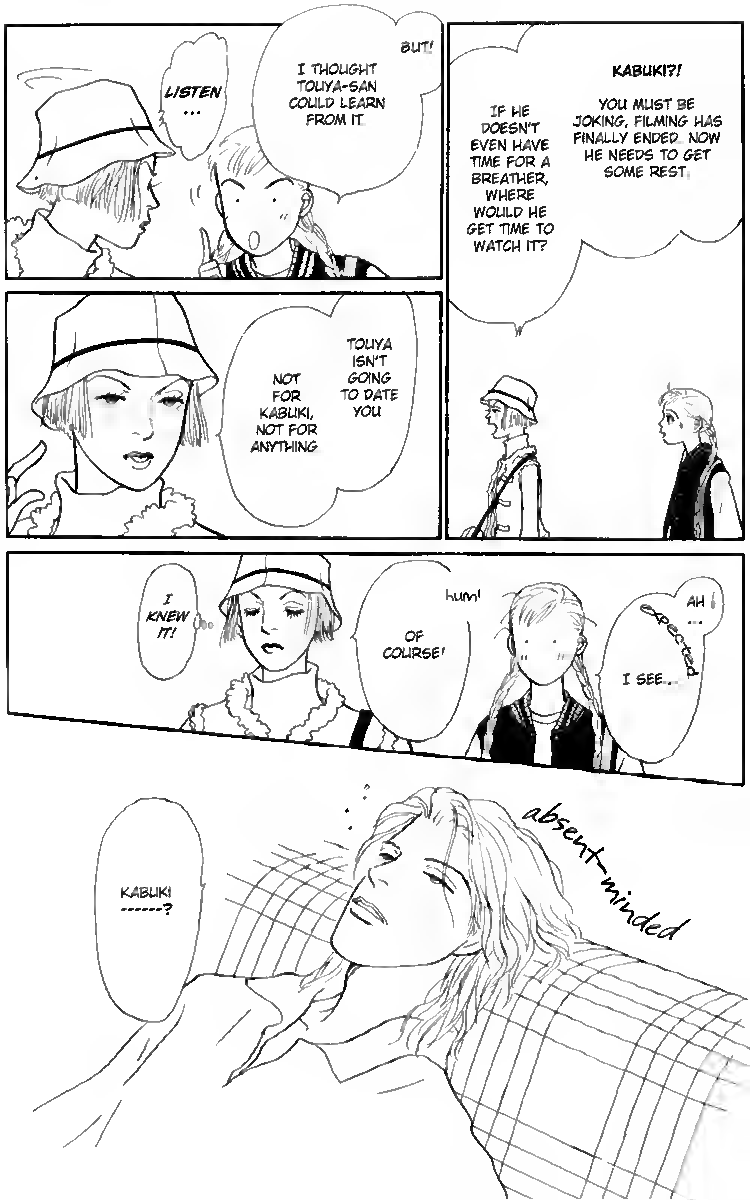
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running around
I... I WAS CALLED HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE ROLE DIVISION TODAY.....
I'M NOT EXCITED ONE BIT! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU RUNNING AROUND THE TV STATION FOR SOME TIME. I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T HAVE TO SEE YOU AGAIN
THE SHOW WHICH IS GOING TO BE AIRED ON NEW YEARS.
Oh!
I WAS A BIT TOO EXCITED; I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU HERE. SORRY.
SCREAMING MY NAME IN PUBLIC IS EMBARRASSING!
.....
THE ONE THAT WON FIRST PRIZE OUT OF LUCK
...THE SCRIPT WHICH MADE TOLIYA SO EXCITED AND ECSTATIC.
OH, THAT ONE....
looking around
I HEARD THAT THE "CHAOS ON THE ROADS" SPECIAL HAS WRAPPED UP FILMING. WHY . . .
IS TOLIYA-SAN HERE TODAY?
ERM.

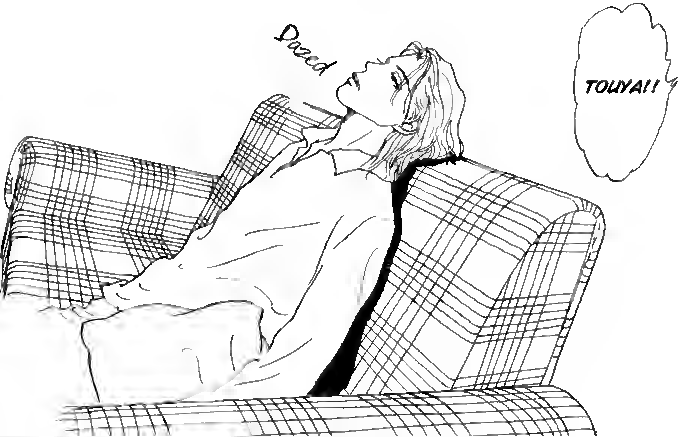

THAT'S RIGHT. DESPITE MANY DIFFICULTIES, FILMING FINALLY ENDED.
THAT'S GREAT! CONGRATS!
FWIP
CONGRATS FOR NOTHING!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT SHOW THAT TOLYA BECAME SO SCREWED UP.
I GET A HEADACHE JUST LOOKING AT HIM!
NO--- THE ONE I'M ANGRIEST AT IS THAT KAZUMA RIN!
HOW FAR DOES HE PLAN TO DRAG THIS ON?


SAR-CAS-TIC?
REGARDLESS OF BEING JUST A SCRIPTWRITER, HE KEPT COMING TO THE STUDIO TO WATCH TOUYA...
AND MAKE SARCASTIC COMMENTS.
THAT'S RIGHT!
FINDING ANY AND EVERY FAULT IN TOUYA!
JUST BE YOURSELF. BE CASUAL. THAT'S ENOUGH. PERFECT. PERFECT.
EVEN IF THERE WAS SOMETHING LACKING, I'M JUST A PLAYWRIGHT, I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING
HEY, DON'T BREAK A SWEAT OVER IT. NO ONE EXPECTS ANYTHING FROM YOU.

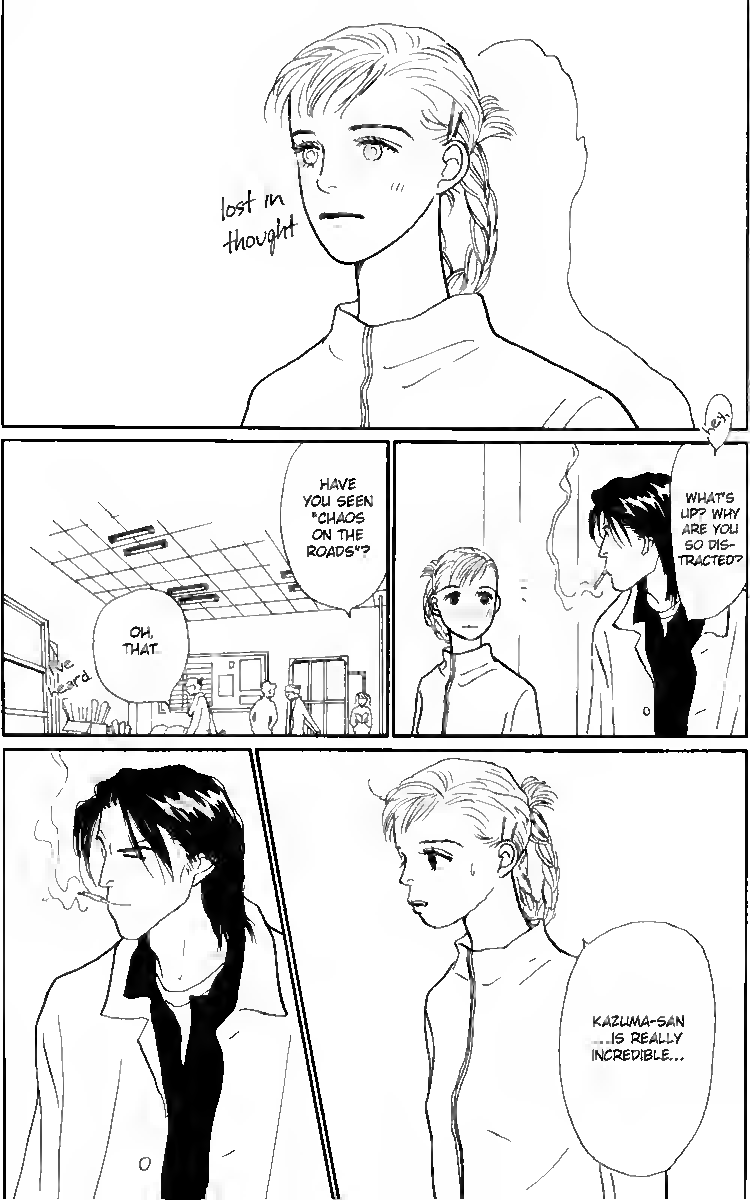

Grind...
Grind...
EVEN THOUGH I HAD HOPED YOU WOULDN'T CREATE SUCH A SHALLOW CHARACTER... NEVERMIND, YOU'VE TRIED YOUR BEST. I KNOW, I KNOW.
WHAT?
AH, NOTHING
shaking head
Really
AMAZING
EVERY SINGLE DAY HE'D SAY SOMETHING CONDESCENDING TO TOLYA.
THANKS TO THAT, TOLYA'S BECOME SINISTER AND CRUEL.

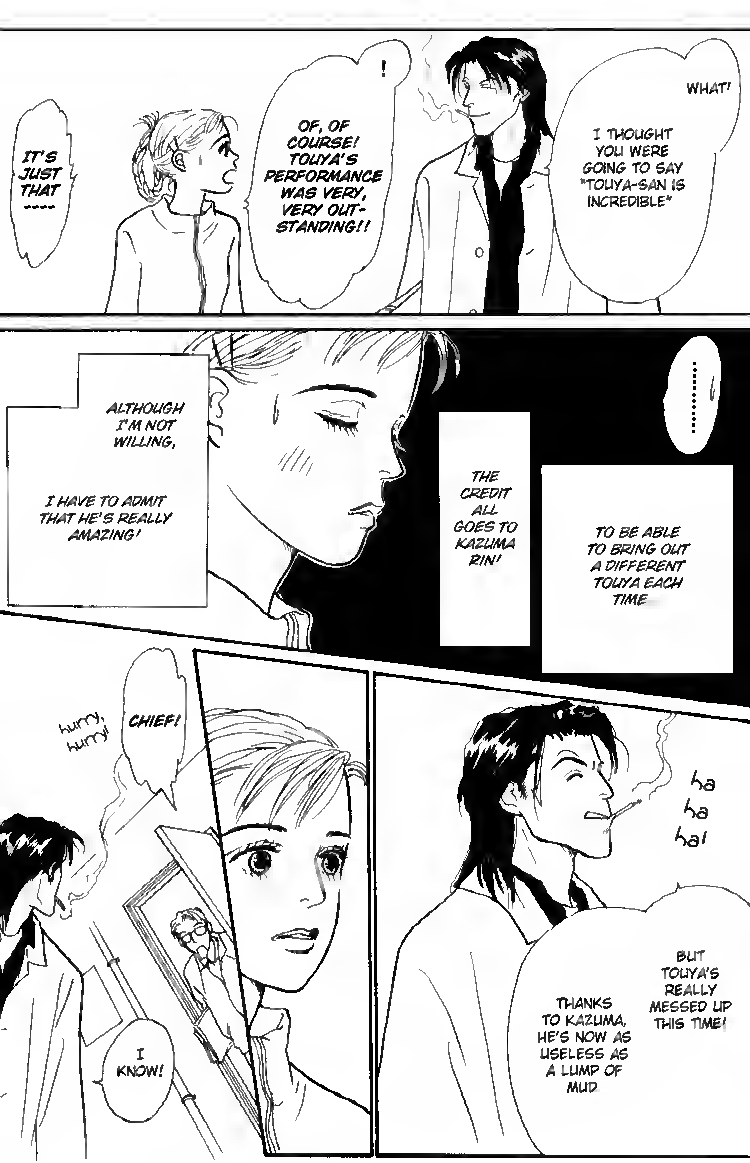

LISTEN ...
I THOUGHT TOUYA-SAN COULD LEARN FROM IT
BUT!
KABUKI?!
YOU MUST BE JOKING, FILMING HAS FINALLY ENDED NOW HE NEEDS TO GET SOME REST.
IF HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TIME FOR A BREATHER, WHERE WOULD HE GET TIME TO WATCH IT?
TOUYA ISN'T GOING TO DATE YOU
NOT FOR KABUKI, NOT FOR ANYTHING
I KNEW IT!
OF COURSE!
hum!
I SEE..
AH ... expected
KABUKI -------?
absent-minded

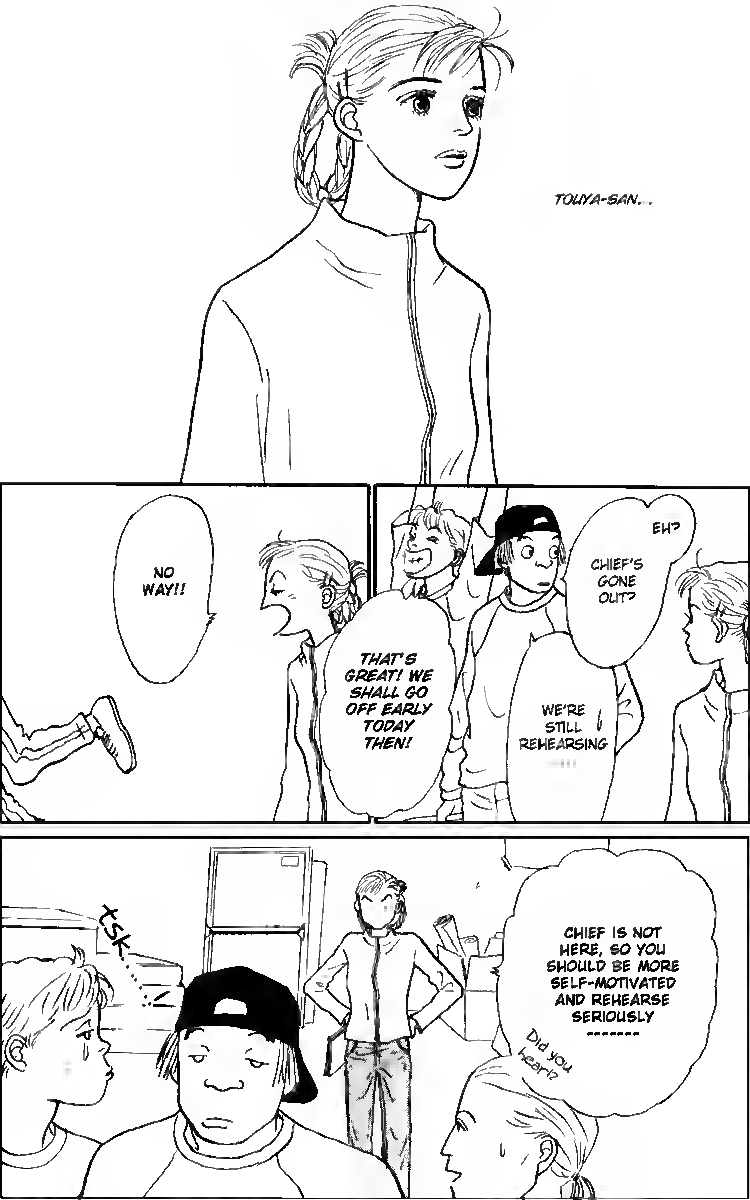

I'VE ONLY WATCHED IT ON TV
IS THAT SO? THEN...
WHY SO SUDDENLY ?
NOTHING, IT'S JUST... RIGHT! IT'S THE DIRECTOR
BECAUSE THE DIRECTOR HAPPENED TO HAVE THE TICKETS...
TOUYA,
YOU HAVE A NEW TV SERIES STARTING NEXT WEEK. YOU HAVE TO GET BACK ON YOUR FEET!
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO STOP BEING SO PREOCCUPIED?


Pssst
TOUYA!!


HEY, DID YOU WATCH IT?
THE "CHAOS ON THE ROADS" SPECIAL EPISODE!
YES, YES! YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT TOUYA, RIGHT!?
THIS CHARACTER IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM HIS PAST ROLES!
IT WAS REALLY SCARY!
...BUT I WOULDN'T MIND BEING ASSAULTED BY THAT KIND OF TOUYA...
BUT HIS ACTING LEFT ME SPEECH-LESS.
THAT PAIR OF EYES FULL OF SPITE AND MALEVO-LENCE WAS REALLY SHOCKING
JUST ONE GLANCE FROM HIM AND I BROKE OUT IN GOOSE BUMPS!
hahaha
YOU'RE A PERVERT!


lost in thought
Eh?
WHAT'S UP? WHY ARE YOU SO DISTRACTED?
HAVE YOU SEEN "CHAOS ON THE ROADS"?
OH, THAT
I've heard
KAZUMA-SAN ...IS REALLY INCREDIBLE...


IT'S JUST THAT ----
!
OF, OF COURSE! TOUYA'S PERFORMANCE WAS VERY, VERY OUT-STANDING!!
WHAT!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY "TOUYA-SAN IS INCREDIBLE"
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT WILLING,
I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT HE'S REALLY AMAZING!
THE CREDIT ALL GOES TO KAZUMA RIN!
.....
TO BE ABLE TO BRING OUT A DIFFERENT TOUYA EACH TIME
hurry, hurry
CHIEF!
I KNOW!
ha ha ha!
THANKS TO KAZUMA, HE'S NOW AS USELESS AS A LUMP OF MUD
BUT TOUYA'S REALLY MESSED UP THIS TIME!


TOUYA-SAN..
NO WAY!!
THAT'S GREAT! WE SHALL GO OFF EARLY TODAY THEN!
WE'RE STILL REHEARSING
CHIEF'S GONE OUT?
EH?
CHIEF IS NOT HERE, SO YOU SHOULD BE MORE SELF-MOTIVATED AND REHEARSE SERIOUSLY
Did you hear!?
TSK


YUU-SAN,
THERE'S SOMEONE OUTSIDE WHO WANTS TO LOOK AROUND ……
LOOK AROUND ?
YOU ARE …
?
an applicant?
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY SUDDEN INTRUSION
BUT AFTER HEARING SO MUCH FROM MY GRAND-FATHER, I GOT A LITTLE INTERESTED

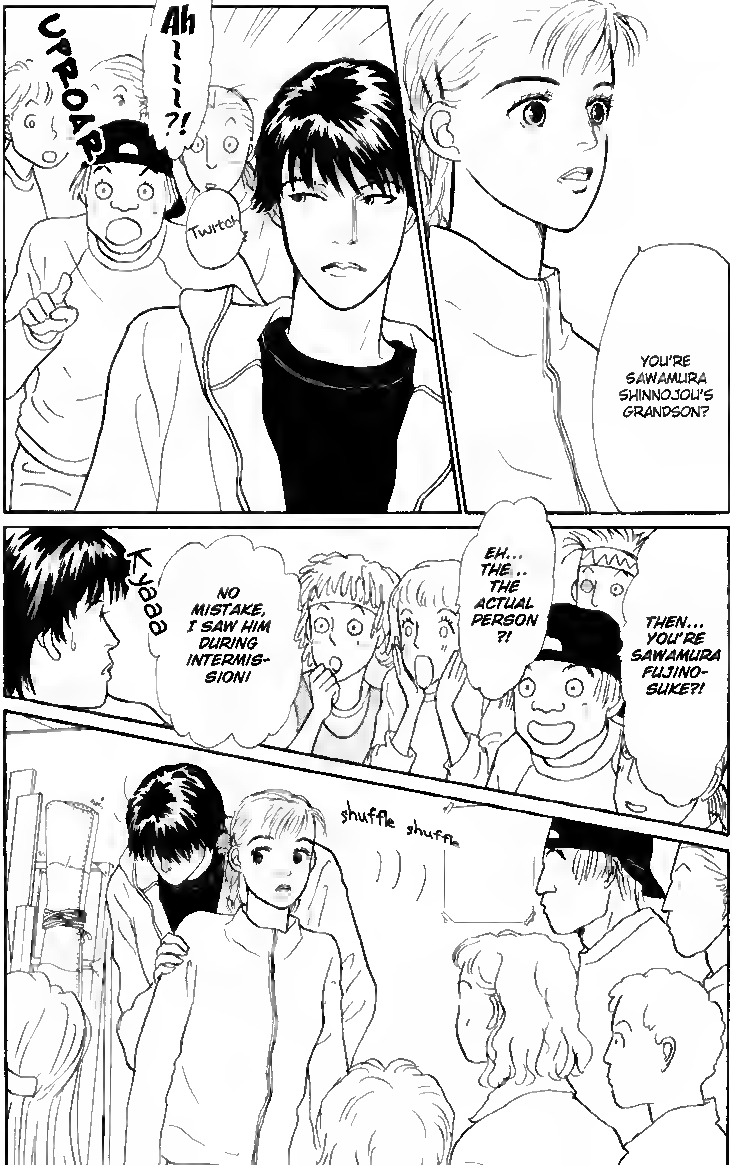

GRAND-FATHER ----?
YES,
AT THE AFTER-PARTY HE HAD A PLEASANT CHAT WITH YOU
SAWAMURA SHINNOJOU IS MY GRANDFATHER
AH!



ASHITA NO OUSAMA

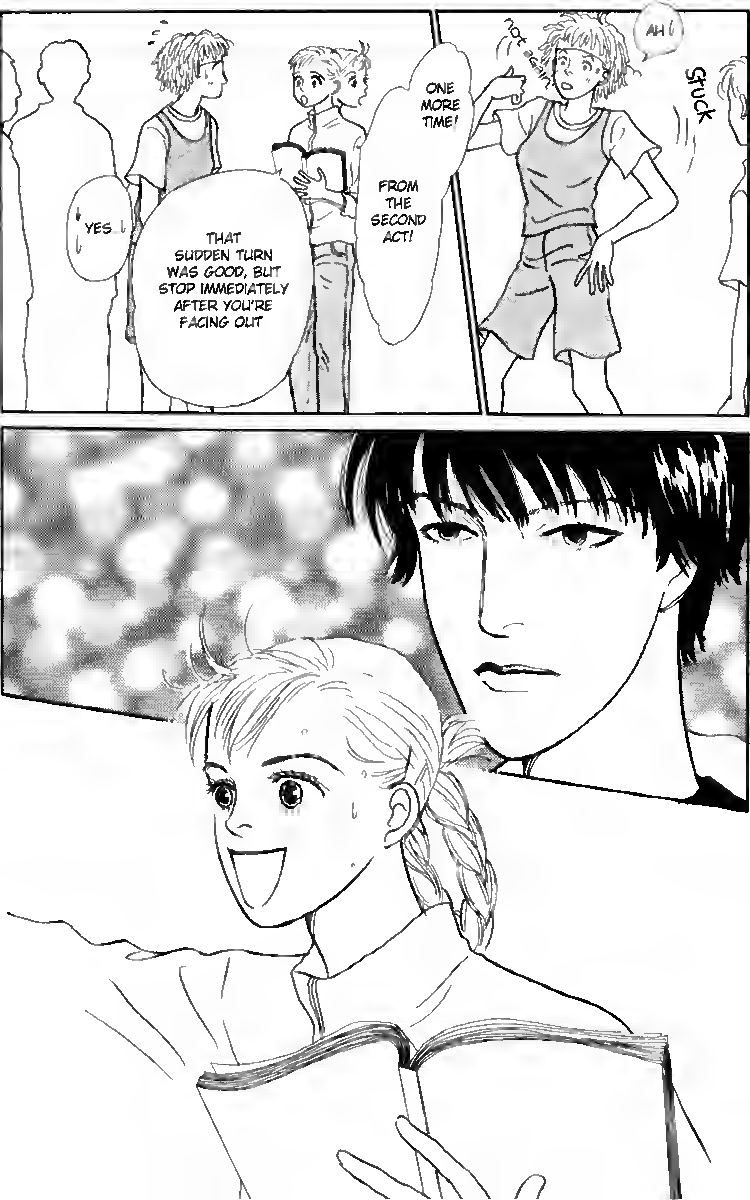
明日の王様

UNIT 36


YOU'RE SAWAMURA SHINNOJOU'S GRANDSON?
Twitch
Ah~~~?!
UPROAR
THEN... YOU'RE SAWAMURA FUJINO-SUKE?!
EH... THE.. THE ACTUAL PERSON ?!
NO MISTAKE, I SAW HIM DURING INTERMIS-SION!
Kyaaa
shuffle shuffle


?
YOU ALL KNOW HIM?
NOT AGAIN
OF COURSE!! HE'S THE NUMBER ONE MOST WATCHED OUT OF ALL THE NEW GENERATION KABUKI ACTORS!
IF YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU WANT TO WATCH US REHEARSE?
I'D BETTER. . GO BACK I WAS JUST... CURIOUS AND DROPPED BY, THAT'S ALL
EH?
listens attentively


YOU CAME JUST ABOUT THE RIGHT TIME. WE'RE GOING TO START FROM THE BEGINNING TODAY. I THINK IT'LL BE FUN FOR YOU!
, WHAT DOES HE PLAN TO SEE FROM SO FAR...
COMPACTLY


YES
THAT SUDDEN TURN WAS GOOD, BUT STOP IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOU'RE FACING OUT
ONE MORE TIME!
FROM THE SECOND ACT!
AH
STUCK



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AH!
Let's see
YES
RIGHT, JUST HOLD THESE 2 CUPS AND PRACTICE!
I CAN'T SPILL THE WATER...?
EH?!
AH!
WAH!
YUU-SAN, I CAN'T DO IT
WELL


IMAGINE IT, IMAGINE IT!
HUH?
KEEP YOUR ENTIRE BODY FROM HEAD TO TOE IN LINE WHEN YOU TURN. IMAGINE YOU'RE HANGING FROM A STRING.
IF YOU REMEMBER TO THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT. IMAGINE IT.
squat
HE TOLD ME THIS...
fast turn


St
op
silence
prim ly
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

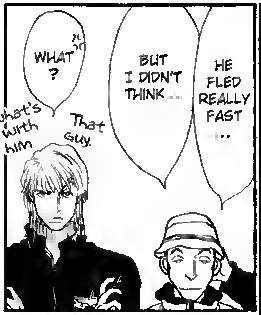

No choice that we think alike huh?
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND.
WE JUST HAPPEN TO BE HEADED TO THE SAME PLACE. I'M GOING "THERE" TO TAKE A LOOK, NOT STALKING YOU
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO STOP TAILING ME?
I'LL SAY THIS FIRST, THIS IS THE LAST INTERVIEW I'M ATTENDING WITH YOU.
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO NEXT TIME!
HA HA HA!
WHY'RE YOU SO ANGRY?
IT'S BECAUSE THE SHOW RECEIVED RAVE REVIEWS THAT THE MEDIA WANTS TO INTERVIEW US!
I ADMIT THAT THIS SHOW WAS A BIG SUCCESS,
BUT SASAYA YUU'S FINAL EPISODE WAS THE ONE THAT GOT THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC DISCUSSION FROM MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPERS CRITICS.
THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE OVER HER IS RATINGS — MERE FIGURES SO WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?


I got it!!
Wahh
Clack...
Bull's eye
DO IT AGAIN, DO IT AGAIN!
DON'T FORGET THAT FEELING!
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
I didn't even spill one drop of water. Wow!
I did it!
THAT'S JUST A BASIC DANCE TECHNIQUE
THANKS, I OWE YOU!
LUCKILY YOU WERE HERE TO HELP!

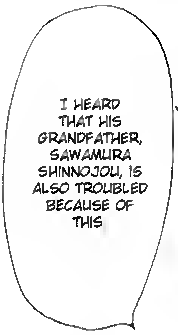

WAH!
WHY'S HE HERE?!
ISN'T THAT SAWAMURA FUJINO-SUKE?
WHO'S THAT?
Basic ? No wonder
Ah
HI!
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU HERE!
OH, I'M HONORED TO HAVE WATCHED YOU ON STAGE LAST MONTH, IT WAS SUPERB!

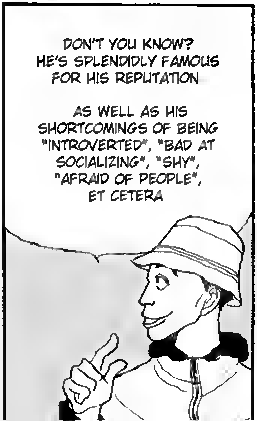

I'M LEAVING
YUU-SAN, PLEASE COME HERE FOR A MINUTE...


I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET THE PRINCE OF THE KABUKI WORLD!
HOW IS IT, ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ACTING IN MY SHOW?


WHAT?
BUT I DIDN'T THINK...
HE FLED REALLY FAST...
What's with him
That guy


Grabbed away


I HEARD THAT HIS GRANDFATHER, SAWAMURA SHINNOJOU, IS ALSO TROUBLED BECAUSE OF THIS


DON'T YOU KNOW? HE'S SPLENDIDLY FAMOUS FOR HIS REPUTATION
AS WELL AS HIS SHORTCOMINGS OF BEING "INTROVERTED", "BAD AT SOCIALIZING", "SHY", "AFRAID OF PEOPLE", ET CETERA


BECAUSE HE ASKED "IS THERE A PERSON NAMED SASAYA YUU-SAN HERE?" THE MOMENT HE CAME IN.
AH! IT SEEMS THAT HE CAME TO LOOK FOR YUU-SAN ESPECIALLY!
WELL...
HEY, HEY, WHY DID HE COME HERE?
.....
OH...
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT SHE KNEW THE PRINCE OF KABUKI, HER SOCIAL CIRCLE SURE IS WIDE...


WHAT'S THAT?
Wah!
AH
TOUYA -SAN!
JUST NOW... FUJINOSUKE-SAN PASSED THIS TO ME... TO GET SUCH AN EXPENSIVE KABUKI TICKET, I'M SO BLESSED!
Ah, It seems to be shining so brightly...
ONLY ONE? HN! THAT'S STINGY! USUALLY PEOPLE GIVE TWO TICKETS.
.....
But, but, it's such an expensive ticket
NOT LONG AGO,
I WENT TO WATCH MY FIRST KABUKI SHOW.


I WAS VERY, VERY TOUCHED!
THAT GRAND AND BEAUTIFUL DREAMLIKE STAGE MADE ME REALIZE THAT I HAVEN'T LEARNED ENOUGH.
BUT TO THINK THAT I'D KNOW IT ALL JUST BY WATCHING WOULD BE TOO BOLD. UNLESS YOU'RE IN THAT WORLD, THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN HONESTLY UNDERSTAND IT ACCURATELY.
AH.
TOUYA-SAN MUST HAVE WATCHED COUNTLESS KABUKI PERFORMANCES. YOU MUST BE LAUGHING AT ME RIGHT NOW...
Never watched before
I WASN'T REALLY INTERESTED UNTIL NOW.
EH?
THE STAGE OF THE "PRINCE OF KABUKI", I WANT TO SEE IT TOO.


REALLY!?
I HEARD THAT AFTER KAZUMA-SAN'S EPISODE OF "CHAOS ON THE ROADS", YOU WERE EXHAUSTED AND DEPRESSED... KINA-SAN SEEMED WORRIED...
BUT IT SEEMS THAT YOU'VE COMPLETELY RECOVERED NOW.
...THAT'S GREAT.


Ah, again That look in my eyes
DON'T SAY IT!
I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER
THE TOUYA IN THE "SPECIAL EPISODE" WAS SO COOL!
YOU TALKED ABOUT KABUKI BEFORE, RIGHT?
WHAT ?
IS THERE A TICKET FOR THE 18TH THIS MONTH?

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WAIT,
WHY DO YOU SUDDENLY WANT TO WATCH KABUKI?
HEY, TOUYA?!
GRANNY,
IN MY MIND,
THERE SEEMS TO BE MANY SMALL COGS,
ONE AFTER ANOTHER,
SLOWLY STARTING TO MOVE


WAH!
RRRR
A VARIETY OF INSPIRATION AMASSED,
AH,
I'M SO SORRY, MY SITUATION NOW, I'M AFRAID... AH, NO, THIS... ERM...
HELLO?
AND THE ENERGY WAS CREATED
Bow
Really, really
Bow
very sorry
LITTLE BY LITTLE


GRANNY
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE GOING TO BE BESIEGED WITH REQUESTS FOR YOU TO WRITE SCRIPTS. YOU'D BETTER REALIZE THAT.
I HAVE EXAMS TOMORROW!
AH! IT'S SO LATE ALREADY?!
how many times has this happened.
Sigh
"REFUSING PEOPLE DIRECTLY" IS SUCH A PROFOUND AND DIFFICULT SKILL...
AND WITH MY STUDENT LIFE FACTORED IN,
IT BECAME REALLY HARD.
Gloom


WAIT FOR ME AT THE ENTRANCE. I'M LEAVING RIGHT NOW.
Look in'g
around
CAN HE REALLY TAKE TIME OFF FROM HIS BUSY SCHEDULE...?
da da da
3 part 3 part
HAH, FINALLY MADE IT
AH
Wah yaa yaa yaa yaa yaa
IS, ISN'T THIS ICHII TOUYA?!
TSK!
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THEY SAID TODAY'S TICKETS ARE SOLD OUT MAY BE I CAN QUICKLY FIND SOMEONE TO EXCHANGE...
TIME IS NOTHING THE REAL PAIN IS THIS TICKET!
EH?


Kya
Kya
EH ISN'T THAT YUU-SAN?
Ya didn't expect to see my idol in person here
PLEASE GIVE US YOUR AUTO-GRAPH!
I'm a Big fan!
CAN WE TAKE A PHOTO?
AH!
SAWAMURA SHINNOJOU-SAN!
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE FOR KABUKI.
TODAY IS MY GRANDSON, SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE'S, PERFORMANCE!
YES, THE OTHER DAY, I HAD THE HONOR TO RECEIVE THIS TICKET FROM FUJINOSUKE-SAN
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
FUJINO-SUKE?


What?!
Fujinosuke went to your rehearsal space?!
?
I DIDN'T EXPECT ... THAT EXTREMELY SHY FUJINOSUKE ACTUALLY ...
INTER-ESTING ...
.....
"TICKET? HA HA HA, DON'T WORRY, LEAVE IT TO ME."
TO... SIT HERE AT... THE VIP SEATS JUST LIKE THIS... IS THIS REALLY ALLOWED?
Timid like a mouse
th-ump
th-ump
th-ump
.....


...I JUST DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU WERE ON SUCH GOOD TERMS WITH THE KABUKI ACTORS
NOTH ING
?
WHAT'S WRONG?
AH, ACTUALLY WE'VE ONLY MET ONCE AT A PARTY...


BUT, THAT MEETING INSPIRED ME TO WRITE "THE AGE-CHANGING MOUNTAIN PASS" AGAIN...
NOW...
I HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO WRITE IT.

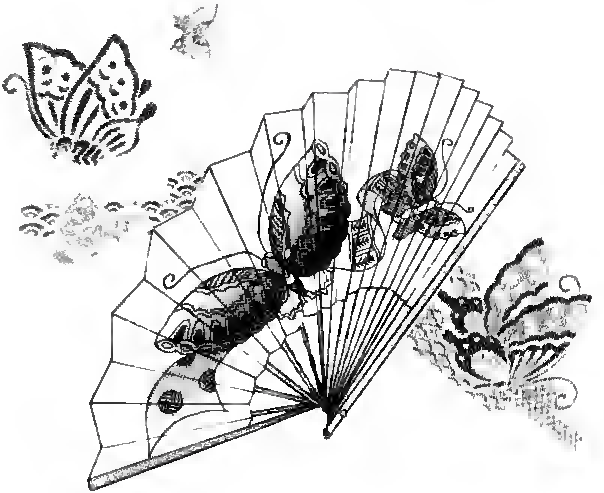

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE
VERY SOON...
OUR PROMISE WILL BE FULFILLED!


AH.
DON'T WORRY. I WISH TO SEE IT MATERIALIZE FOR MYSELF.
YES!
GRAND-FATHER,
BEFORE, WEREN'T YOU HAPPILY CHATTING ABOUT HER?

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IT'S STRANGE, RIGHT?
I'M ACTUALLY THIS INTERESTED...




ASHITA NO OUSAMA
明日の王様
UNIT 37


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING,
PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO CHECK FOR YOUR BELONGINGS ---
HEY!
Pssst

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The Long Awaited Year 2000



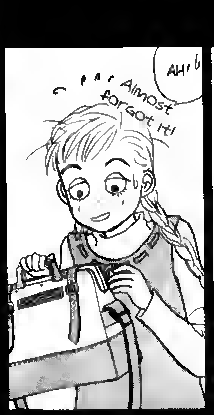
Resolutions? I really have none!

Editor

All I'm hoping for is to beat "Sorcerian" right now!

He he he

T/N: Sorcerian is a video game.





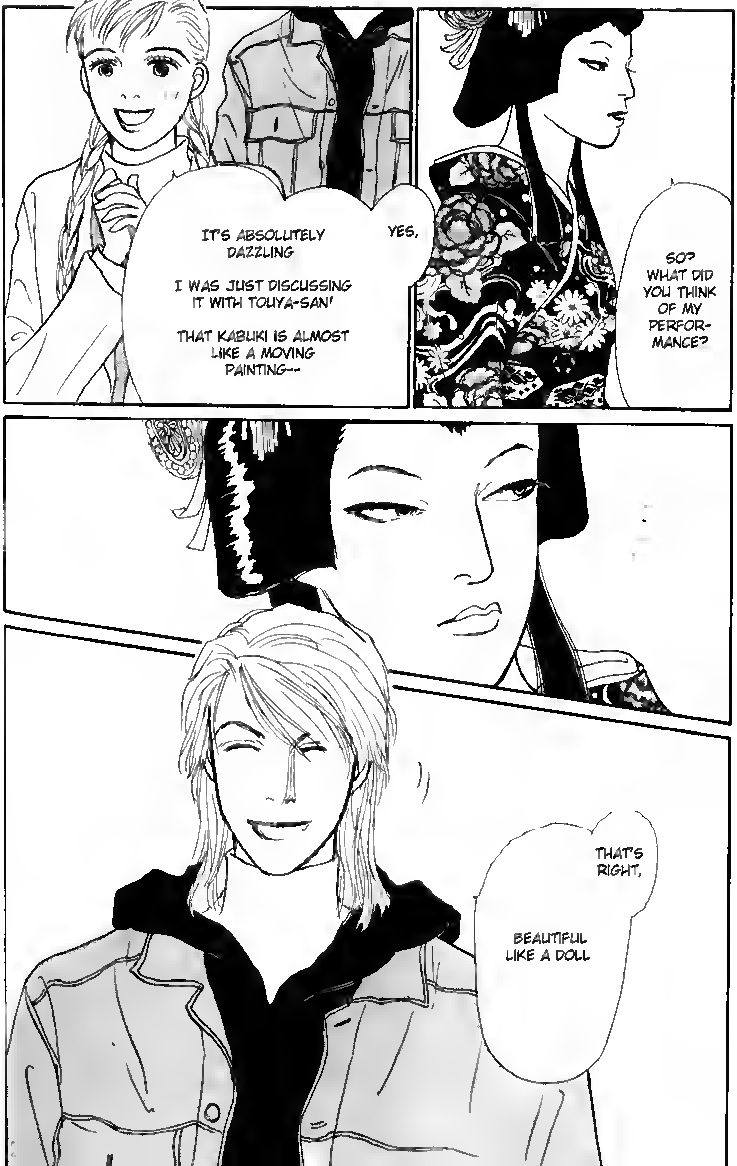




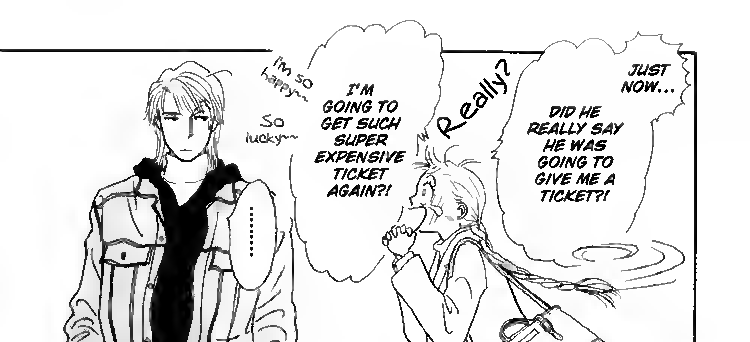



LIKE A PERFECT DOLL...

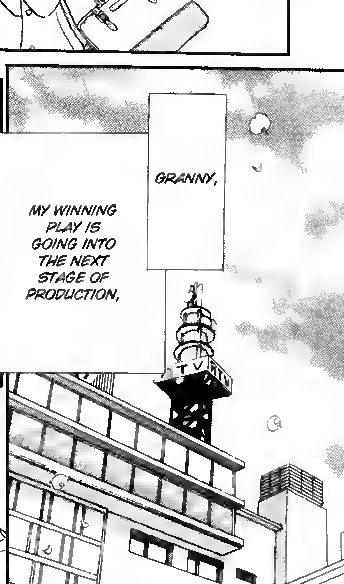

WELL... HE DOES LOOK LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF THIS WORLD.
FROM BEGINNING TO END, THERE'S NOT ONE BIT OF HUMANITY IN HIM.
Buzz
Uproar
I can't believe it!
Oh my God!
It's Fujino-suke!
YUU-SAN!
GRANDFATHER TOLD ME YOU WERE HERE. I WAS AFRAID I'D MISS YOU.
SO I CAME STRAIGHT FROM THE STAGE


SO? WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY PERFOR-MANCE?
YES, IT'S ABSOLUTELY DAZZLING
I WAS JUST DISCUSSING IT WITH TOUYA-SAN!
THAT KABUKI IS ALMOST LIKE A MOVING PAINTING--
THAT'S RIGHT, BEAUTIFUL LIKE A DOLL


YUU-SAN,
MY NEXT STAGE IS SET UP AT TOKYO NATIONAL STADIUM. YOU HAVE TO COME, SO I'LL SEND YOU A TICKET
.....
FUJINOSUKE-SAN! GO BACKSTAGE, PLEASE!
IT'S TIME TO CHANGE!
.....
WHAT'S THIS? YOU TWO SEEM TO GET ALONG PRETTY WELL... HE SEEMED REALLY HAPPY.
THAT GUY...


I'm so happy~
So lucky~
.....
I'M GOING TO GET SUCH SUPER EXPENSIVE TICKET AGAIN?!
Really?
JUST NOW...
DID HE REALLY SAY HE WAS GOING TO GIVE ME A TICKET?!





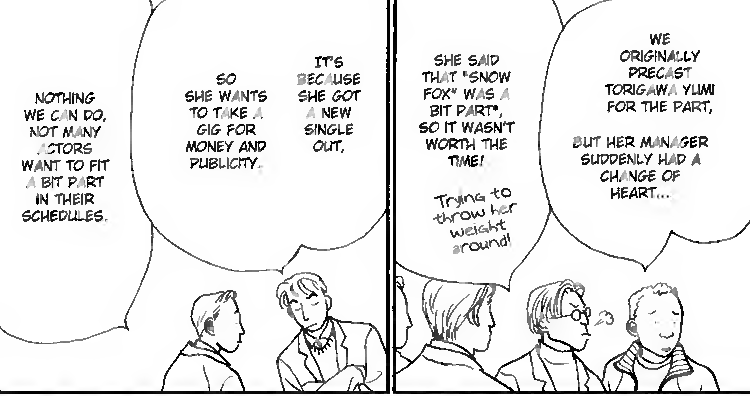


T/N Techies—a person who operates technical equipment and systems in Performing arts and Entertainment Industry <3 Wikipedia Pronounced Teckees

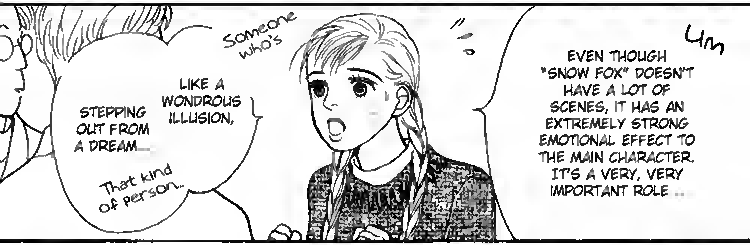

Haha Ha
NO, NO... I-I'M ALSO...
H-HELLO! SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I CAUSED DURING "CHAOS ON THE ROADS"
AH...
AH... HI.
EH?
BUT, YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT ME ACTING IN IT THIS TIME...
WELL... I DID THOSE THINGS THAT TIME...

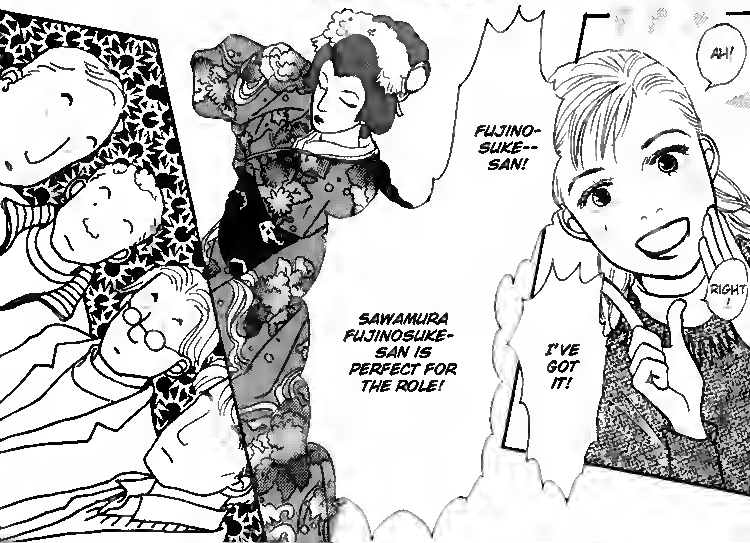

EH?
REALLY?
YOUR ACTING IN THE FINALE WAS REALLY GREAT. I WAS MOVED TO TEARS.
HA HA HA!
IT'S BECAUSE THE SCRIPT WAS VERY WELL WRITTEN, REALLY!
IT'S NOTHING, NOTHING!
YEAH! SO I HAVE TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN YOUR ACTING SKILLS. I'M DEPENDING ON YOU!
Returning Compliments back and forth
I'll work extra hard too!
Ah, really?!
YOU MEAN THE ROLE OF "SNOW FOX".
WASN'T THERE A SCENE WHERE THE GRANDMOTHER STANDS IN THE SNOW AND RECITES AN ANCIENT LEGEND?
I WAS SAYING, THERE'S A ROLE THAT HASN'T BEEN FILLED YET...
EH?

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NOTHING WE CAN DO, NOT MANY ACTORS WANT TO FIT A BIT PART IN THEIR SCHEDULES.
SO SHE WANTS TO TAKE A GIG FOR MONEY AND PUBLICITY.
IT'S BECAUSE SHE GOT A NEW SINGLE OUT.
SHE SAID THAT "SNOW FOX" WAS A BIT PART", SO IT WASN'T WORTH THE TIME!
Trying to throw her weight around!
WE ORIGINALLY PRECAST TORIGAWA YUMI FOR THE PART,
BUT HER MANAGER SUDDENLY HAD A CHANGE OF HEART...

T/N: "It part = A small role consisting of very few lines and a brief appearance.


Someone who's
LIKE A WONDROUS ILLUSION,
STEPPING OUT FROM A DREAM...
That kind of person...
Um
EVEN THOUGH "SNOW FOX" DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF SCENES, IT HAS AN EXTREMELY STRONG EMOTIONAL EFFECT TO THE MAIN CHARACTER. IT'S A VERY, VERY IMPORTANT ROLE ...

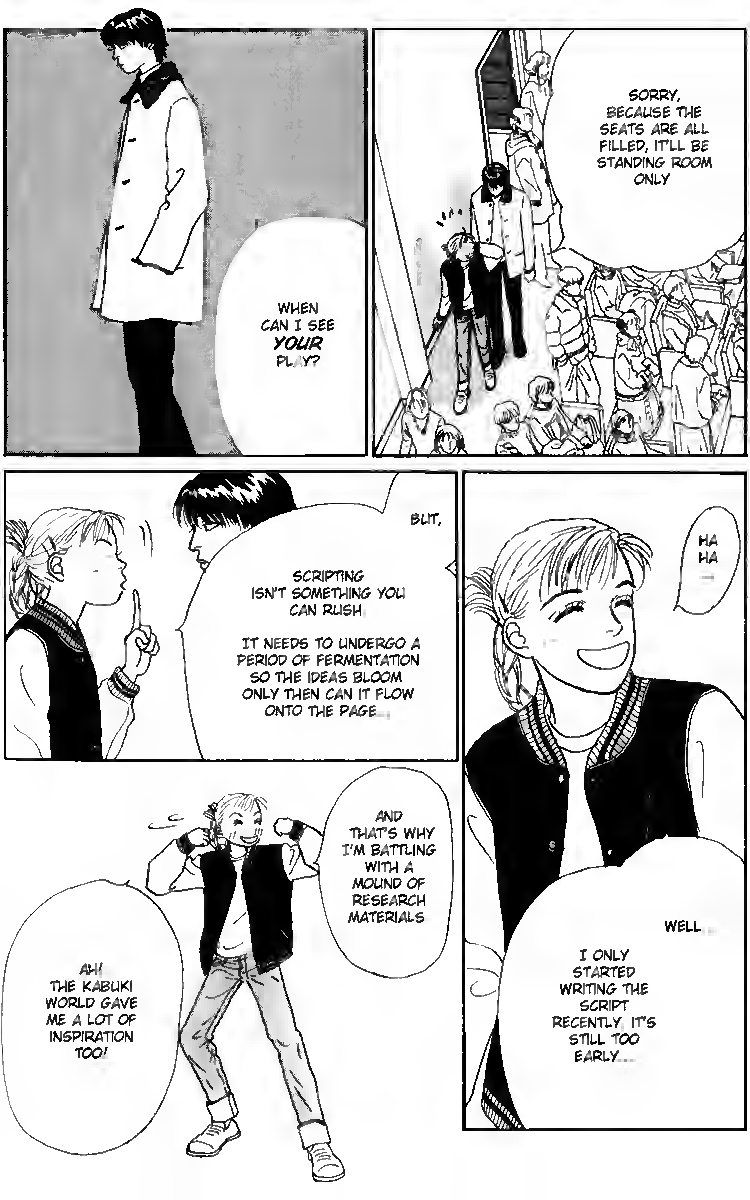



YES
YES
OF THE KABUKI?
SAWAMURA
FUJINO-SUKE?
Heh heh
You sure can make a joke!
AHAHAHAHAHA
AHAHAHAHAHA
PFFFFFFT!
NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO GET HIM TO AGREE TO ANYTHING, NO MATTER IF IT'S TV DRAMA, INTERVIEW, TALK SHOW, OR JUST A REGULAR PROGRAM.
THAT GUY CAN'T BE ON ANY OTHER STAGE BUT A KABUKI STAGE.
NO WAY! NO WAY!
EH? YOU'RE SERIOUS?


PLUS HE'S FAMOUS FOR DISLIKING EXPOSURE
I'M 100% POSITIVE THAT WE'LL GET REJECTED.
WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF TIME. WE SHOULD FOCUS ON OTHER THINGS AND NOT HANG AROUND WORRYING ABOUT THE IMPOSSIBLE.
Kabuki world's crown Prince
Ha..Ha..
REALLY?
IS IT REALLY THAT IMPOSSIBLE ...?


Whoa
FU-
FUJINO-SUKE--SAN...
WHY DOES IT SAY "WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SHIMAMURA SHOUGO"? ISN'T THIS YOUR PLAY?
Nope
CHIEF SHIMAMURA IS THE ACTUAL DIRECTOR I'M JUST AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR!


AH?
BUT WHY! YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE!
I SEE... THEN I'M GOING BACK
THAT'S... RIGHT! YOU'RE GOING BEFORE YOU'VE EVEN SEEN IT, PRETTY RUDE, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE SO MEAN!
PLUS, THIS PLAY IS GOOD ENOUGH TO GARNER A STANDING OVATION, IF YOU MISS IT...
...YOU'LL REGRET IT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
HE'S RIGHT!
.....
YOU HAVE TO STAY AND WATCH SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY HERE!
IT'S REALLY, REALLY INTERESTING! AND, YOSHIKO-SAN HAS ALREADY PERFECTED THAT MOVE YOU TAUGHT HER DURING PRACTICE, DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE?


WHEN CAN I SEE YOUR PLAY?
SORRY, BECAUSE THE SEATS ARE ALL FILLED, IT'LL BE STANDING ROOM ONLY
BUT, SCRIPTING ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN RUSH. IT NEEDS TO UNDERGO A PERIOD OF FERMENTATION SO THE IDEAS BLOOM ONLY THEN CAN IT FLOW ONTO THE PAGE...
HA HA...
WELL... I ONLY STARTED WRITING THE SCRIPT RECENTLY. IT'S STILL TOO EARLY...
AND THAT'S WHY I'M BATTLING WITH A MOUND OF RESEARCH MATERIALS
AH! THE KABUKI WORLD GAVE ME A LOT OF INSPIRATION TOO!

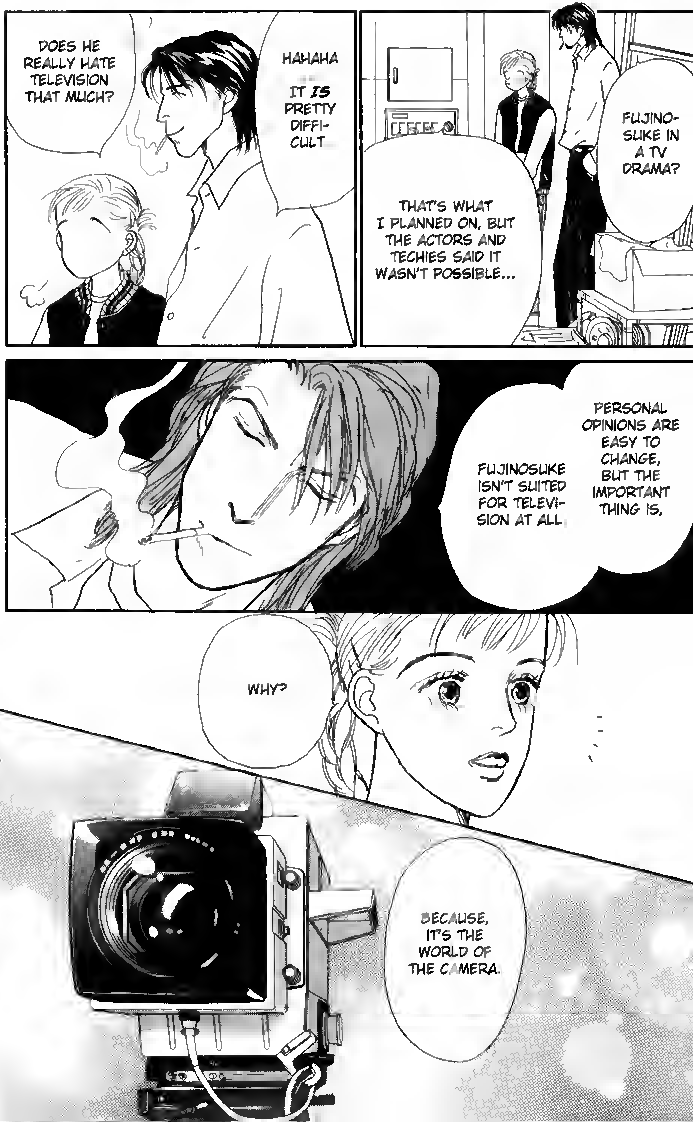
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KABUKI?
YES!
BECAUSE THE WORLD DRAWN OUT BY KABUKI IS VERY CLOSE TO THE IMAGES IN MY MIND.
BOTH COME FROM A TIME LONG PAST,
ALMOST LIKE A STORY THAT EMBODIES ITS OWN WORLD.


IT'S ME.
THE LEAD, HAVE YOU DECIDED
EH?
HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED THEN?
"THE AGE-CHANGING MOUNTAIN PASS" IS GOING TO BE MY STAGE.
SUMMER


Tad tad tad tad
AH!
NO! I'M LATE!
RIIIIIIING
YUU-SAN!
TONIGHT' FOR THOSE IN THE AUDIENCE WHO HAVE NOT TAKEN THEIR SEATS, PLEASE QUICKLY...
TOUYA -SAN!
ANYWAYS ...
And I have to stand to' watch
...THIS IS MY FIRST TIME AT A PLACE LIKE THIS
WHAT A RARE APPEARANCE, THE PRINCE OF THE KABUKI WORLD COMING TO SEE A REGULAR STAGE PLAY.
WHO ARE YOU?


TCH!
LOOKS LIKE MY FAME HASN'T PRECEDED ME YET..
ICHII TOUYA
NICE TO MEET YOU!
HEH HEH HEH...
CHIEF, WHAT'S WRONG?
?
NOTHING.
IT'S JUST THAT, THE SIGHT OF THOSE TWO STANDING TOGETHER IS PRETTY INTERESTING
U


DOES HE REALLY HATE TELEVISION THAT MUCH?
HAHAHA
IT IS PRETTY DIFFICULT
FUJINOSUKE IN A TV DRAMA?
THAT'S WHAT I PLANNED ON, BUT THE ACTORS AND TECHIES SAID IT WASN'T POSSIBLE...
PERSONAL OPINIONS ARE EASY TO CHANGE, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS,
FUJINOSUKE ISN'T SUITED FOR TELEVISION AT ALL
WHY?
BECAUSE, IT'S THE WORLD OF THE CAMERA.


WITH CLOSE-UPS,
NO MATTER HOW TINY THE EXPRESSION,
IT'S INSTANTLY GOING TO BE MAGNIFIED ON THE SCREEN.
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE DEFINITE MOTIONS OF THE BODY IN STAGE ACTING.
BUT,
DOESN'T TOUYA-SAN ACT WELL ON STAGE, AND IS LIKE A FISH IN WATER ON CAMERA?
FOR SOMEONE SO DEEP WITHIN THE WORLD OF KABUKI, WHICH PLACES EMPHASIS ON CREATING BEAUTIFUL POSES WITH THE BODY, IT'S A TOTALLY FOREIGN WORLD TO HIM.

WingtipCafe.com


THAT GUY LOVES TO BE COMPLETELY IMMERSED FROM HEAD TO TOE IN "ACTING".
HE HAS ALWAYS HAD A CONSTANT INTEREST IN WHAT'S "HUMAN". YOU CAN TELL FROM THE ROLES HE'S PLAYED THAT HE LOVES TO FIND OUT WHAT MAKES A "PERSON"
SAWAMURA FUJINO-SUKE'S STAGE—
DOES IT FEEL LIKE THAT?
FROM BEGIN-NING TO END,
THERE'S NOT ONE BIT OF HUMANITY IN HIM.


THIS HAS TO BE THE LARGEST HURDLE THAT FUJINOSUKE HAS HAD TO CROSS AS AN ACTOR,
THAT NATIONAL TREASURE GRAND-DADDY OF HIS,
DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIM ANYMORE,
SO HE PUSHED YOU ON BOARD
?

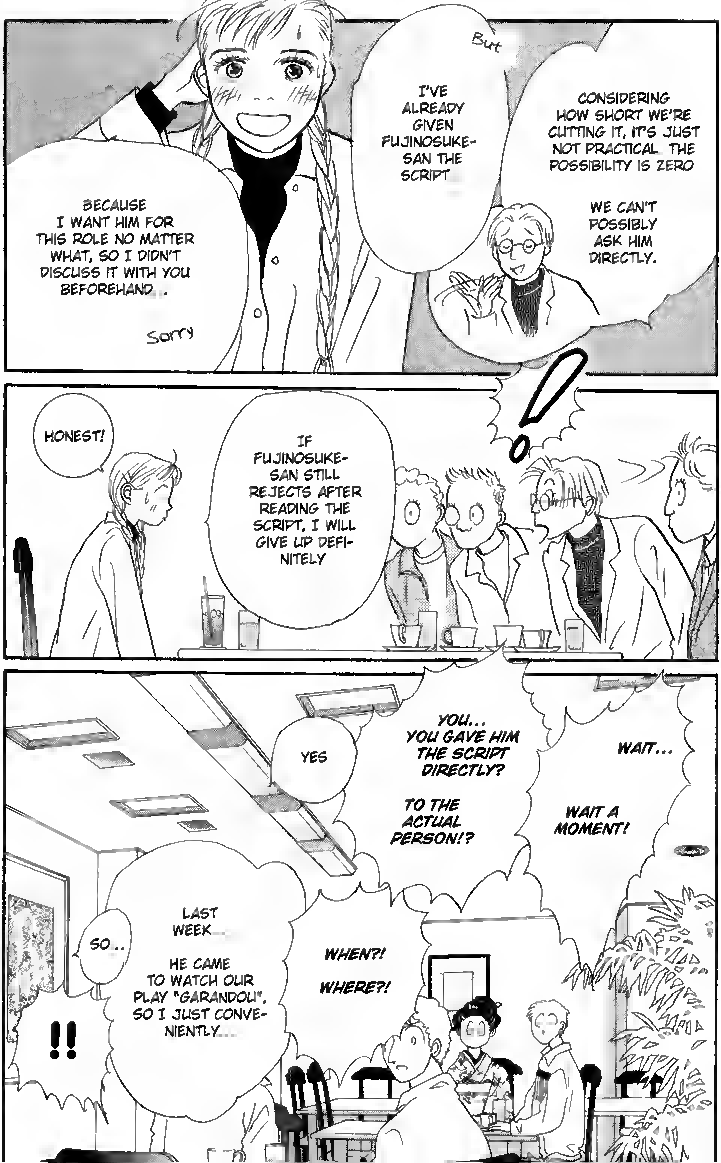

HEH
HEH HEH
DEVELOPING CURIOSITY FOR NEW AND UNKNOWN THINGS IS "HUMAN" NATURE!
ISN'T THIS A GOOD THING?
GRANNY...
BETWEEN THOSE TWO...
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT...
IT FEELS AS IF THERE IS A TREMENDOUS POWER BINDING THEM TOGETHER.


ASHITA NO OUSAMA
明日の王様
UNIT 38


STV
STV
THESE ARE THE ACTRESSES WHOSE SCHEDULES MATCHES OURS.
TIME IS RUNNING OUT, WE HAVE TO DECIDE FAST
OUT OF THESE ACTRESSES, DIRECTOR SHIBAURA LIKES THIS ONE THE MOST
I ALSO THINK SHE'S PASSABLE
...

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BUT...
ACTUALLY, SHE HAS INDICATED HER INTEREST TO ACT IN THIS SHOW.
SO THIS IS MORE OR LESS FIXED.
STOP
THE SCHEDULE IS ALREADY TIGHT, WE CAN'T MAKE IT IN TIME!
I'LL SAY... YOU'RE STILL NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS INDUSTRY, SO IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT CERTAIN RULES... BUT, IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT WHO YOU LIKE, WE STILL HAVE TO CONFER WITH THE OTHER PARTY'S AGENCY.
DON'T TELL ME...
YOU'RE STILL DAY-DREAMING ABOUT IMPRACTICAL THINGS?
Hahaha...
YOU STILL WANT SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE TO ACT IN THIS?


But
I'VE ALREADY GIVEN FUJINOSUKE-SAN THE SCRIPT
CONSIDERING HOW SHORT WE'RE CUTTING IT, IT'S JUST NOT PRACTICAL. THE POSSIBILITY IS ZERO
WE CAN'T POSSIBLY ASK HIM DIRECTLY.
BECAUSE I WANT HIM FOR THIS ROLE NO MATTER WHAT, SO I DIDN'T DISCUSS IT WITH YOU BEFOREHAND...
Sorry
HONEST!
IF FUJINOSUKE-SAN STILL REJECTS AFTER READING THE SCRIPT, I WILL GIVE UP DEFINITELY
!
YES
YOU... YOU GAVE HIM THE SCRIPT DIRECTLY?
TO THE ACTUAL PERSON!?
WAIT...
WAIT A MOMENT!
SO...
LAST WEEK...
HE CAME TO WATCH OUR PLAY "GARANDOU", SO I JUST CONVENIENTLY...
WHEN?!
WHERE?!
!!


I BROUGHT THE SCRIPT
Rummaging
Searching
I WROTE THAT STORY TO BE MADE INTO TV DRAMA
YES!!
TV? ME?
I KNOW THAT YOU'VE NEVER APPEARED ON A DIFFERENT STAGE FROM KABUKI, NOT TO MENTION A TV DRAMA...
BUT, I STILL HOPE YOU CAN AT LEAST READ THE SCRIPT
IF YOU'RE REALLY NOT INTERESTED, I WON'T FORCE YOU


EVER SINCE I'VE WATCHED YOUR PERFORMANCE,
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND. THIS ROLE IS YOURS, THERE'S NO SECOND
HEY,
ALTHOUGH IT'S ONLY A FEW SCENES, THIS ROLE WILL LEAVE A DEEP IMPRESSION ON PEOPLE
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YOU ACTUALLY INTEND TO MAKE HIM ACT IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA?

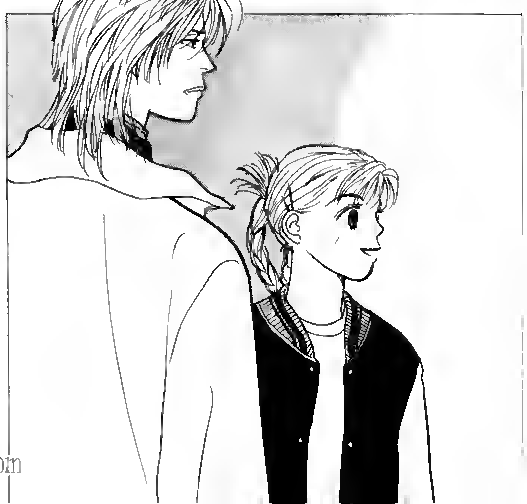

YES
FOR SOMEONE WHO'S USED TO STAGE-ACTING, AND WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT TV WORK,
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE

Oden commoner's delicacy

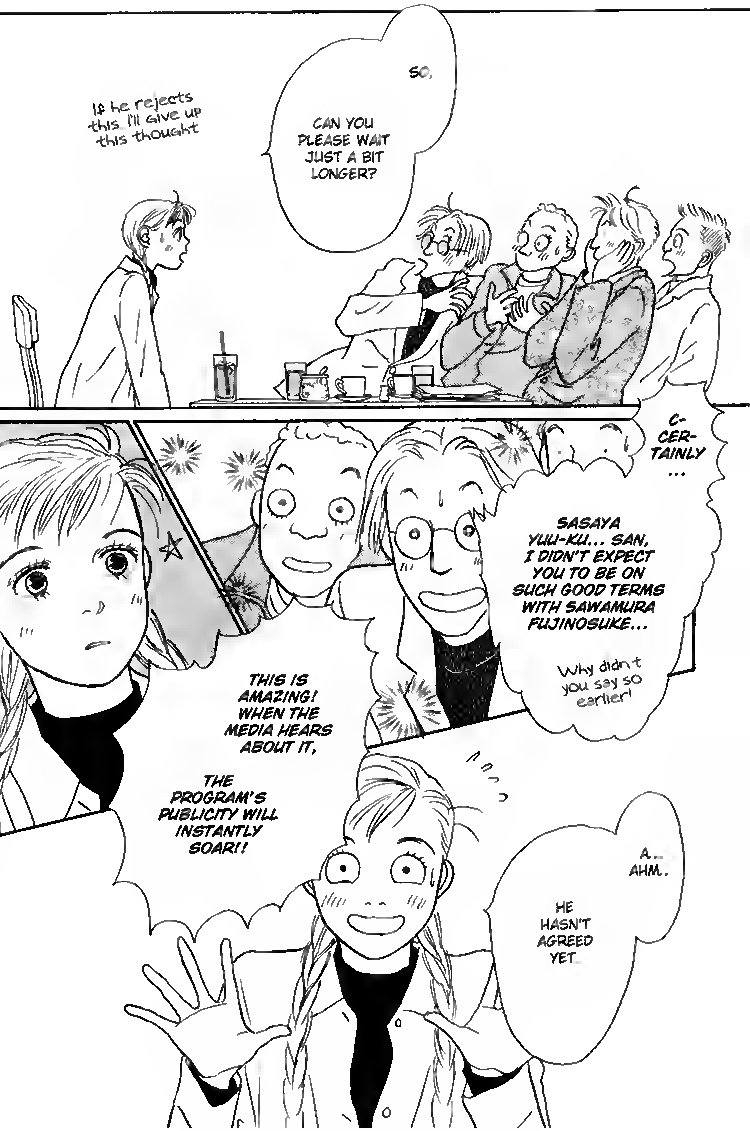


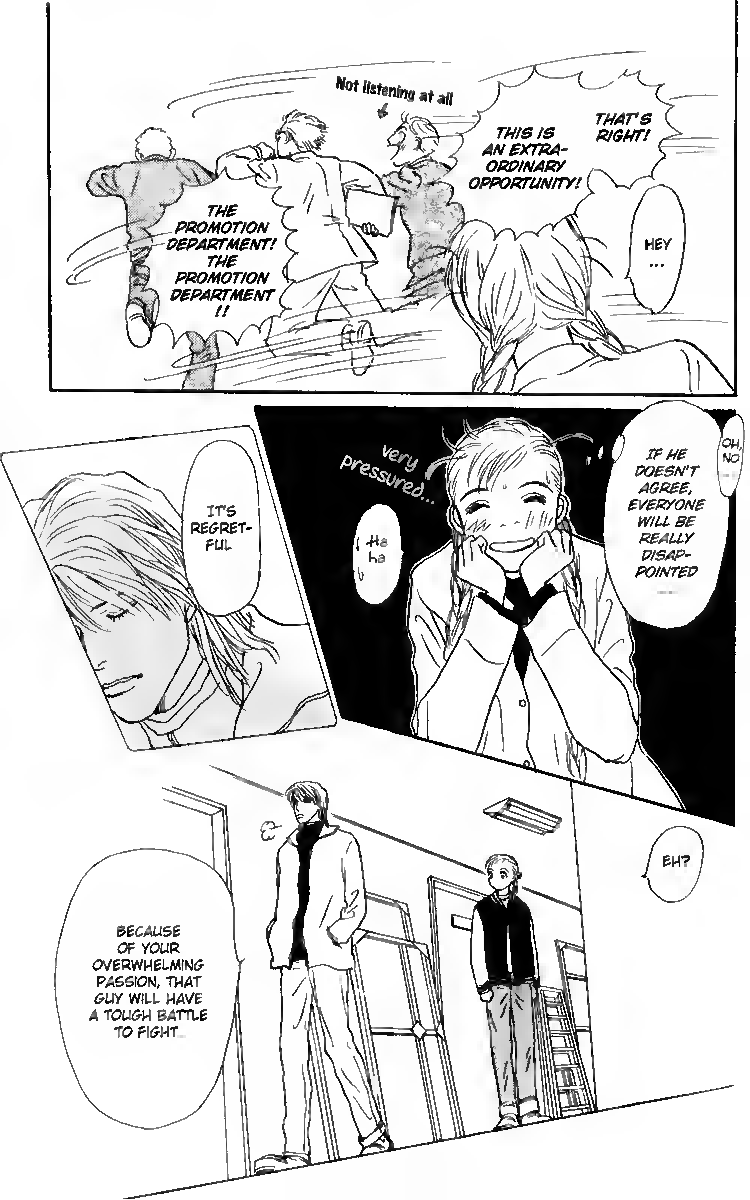
I look forward even more to a roadside oden stall



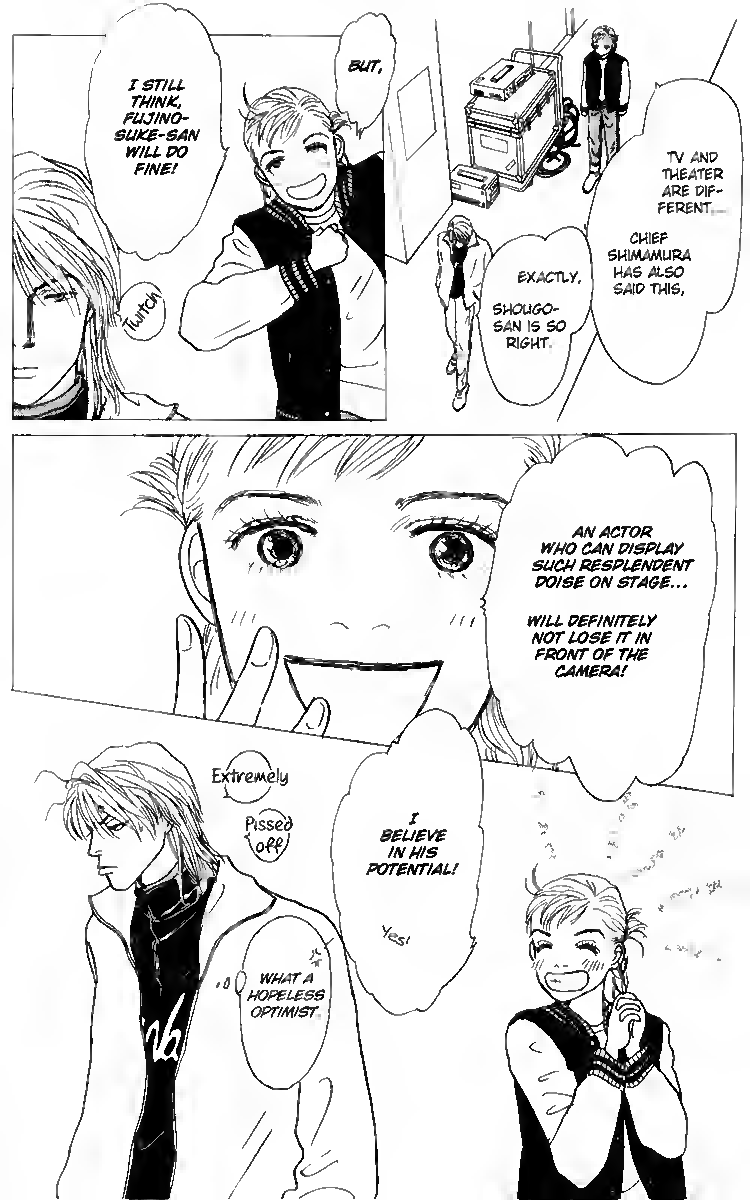


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If he rejects this, I'll give up this thought
SO,
CAN YOU PLEASE WAIT JUST A BIT LONGER?
C-CERTAINLY...
SASAYA YUU-KU... SAN, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE ON SUCH GOOD TERMS WITH SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE...
Why didn't you say so earlier!
THIS IS AMAZING! WHEN THE MEDIA HEARS ABOUT IT,
THE PROGRAM'S PUBLICITY WILL INSTANTLY SOAR!
A... AHM.
HE HASN'T AGREED YET.


Not listening at all
THE PROMOTION DEPARTMENT! THE PROMOTION DEPARTMENT!!
THIS IS AN EXTRA-ORDINARY OPPORTUNITY!
THAT'S RIGHT!
HEY...
very pressured...
Ha ha
IF HE DOESN'T AGREE, EVERYONE WILL BE REALLY DISAP-POINTED
OH, NO
IT'S REGRET-FUL
EH?
BECAUSE OF YOUR OVERWHELMING PASSION, THAT GUY WILL HAVE A TOUGH BATTLE TO FIGHT...


FLARING
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
I DIDN'T ASK HIM TO TAKE A DIFFICULT ROLE AT ALL.
FUJINOSUKE-SAN ALREADY EXUDES THE CHIMERICAL, ETHEREAL DEMEANOR WITHOUT HELP..
TOUGH BATTLE?
THE CAMERA IS A VERY SCARY THING.


I STILL THINK, FUJINO-SUKE-SAN WILL DO FINE!
BUT,
(Twitch)
TV AND THEATER ARE DIFFERENT...
CHIEF SHIMAMURA HAS ALSO SAID THIS,
EXACTLY.
SHOUGO-SAN IS SO RIGHT.
AN ACTOR WHO CAN DISPLAY SUCH RESPLENDENT POISE ON STAGE...
WILL DEFINITELY NOT LOSE IT IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA!
I BELIEVE IN HIS POTENTIAL!
Yes!
Extremely
Pissed off
WHAT A HOPELESS OPTIMIST.

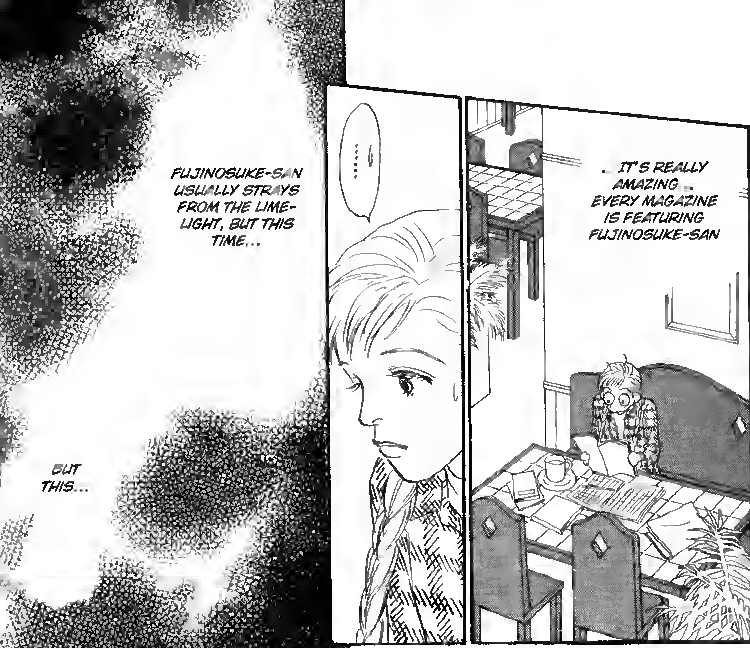

National treasure
IS, IS IT...
Did I hear him correctly
YOU ...
YOU ...
YOU WENT TO WATCH THE PERFORMANCE ...!?
BY YOURSELF..
ALONE?

WingtipCafe.com


THE TWO HOURS I WATCHED THE STAGE,
LED ME INTO A STRANGE DIMENSION. LIKE I SAW ANOTHER WORLD
AND THAT WORLD, ISN'T KABUKI...
UHM,
HMM...
RIGHT, RIGHT.
OCCASIONAL EXPOSURE TO DIFFERENT PERFORMING STYLES CAN INSPIRE US A LOT.
VERY GOOD, VERY GOOD!
GRAND-FATHER
I..
CAN I ACT IN A TV DRAMA?
Note
National treasure

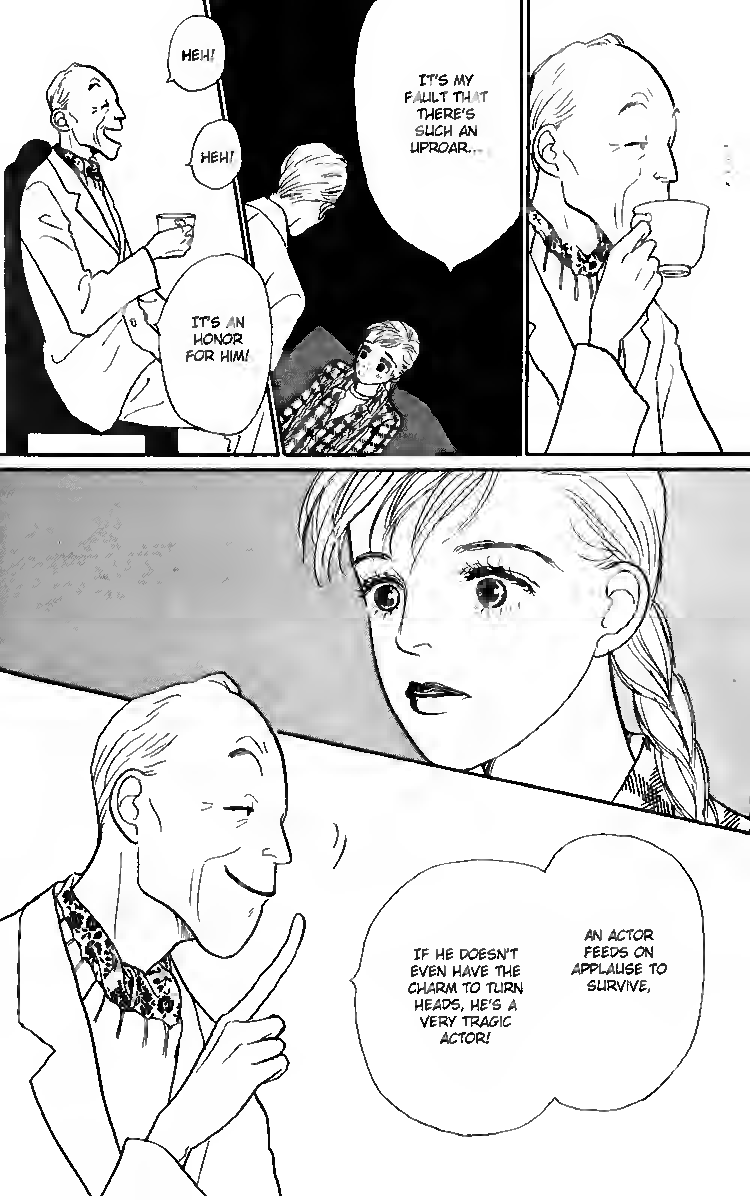

REALLY!?
IT'S SUCH DELIGHTFULLY GOOD NEWS!
WE HIT THE JACKPOT!
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! IT'S A MIRACLE!
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D REALLY AGREE!
Let's celebrate this joyous event!
CONGRATULATIONS ON CAPTURING FUJINOSUKE
UHM, THE OFFICIAL REPLY CAME TODAY!
EVEN HIS AGENCY WAS SURPRISED!
GREAT!
FUJINOSUKE-SAN IS WILLING TO ACT!
THANK YOU——!!


SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE'S
TV DEBUT


FUJINOSUKE-SAN USUALLY STRAYS FROM THE LIME-LIGHT, BUT THIS TIME...
BUT THIS...
.....
.. IT'S REALLY AMAZING .. EVERY MAGAZINE IS FEATURING FUJINOSUKE-SAN


It's the TV station's fault, making such a big fuss, doing such a big promotion campaign.
SIGH.


clatter
!
MY HOUSE IS ALSO SURROUNDED BY AN ARMY OF PAPARAZZI WHO WANT TO INTERVIEW US!
Ugh
YES!
SHIMAMURA-SAN TOLD ME YOU WERE HERE, SO I CAME CAN I HAVE A LITTLE OF YOUR TIME?
. I'M SORRY.


HEH!
HEH!
IT'S AN HONOR FOR HIM!
IT'S MY FAULT THAT THERE'S SUCH AN UPROAR...
AN ACTOR FEEDS ON APPLAUSE TO SURVIVE,
IF HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE CHARM TO TURN HEADS, HE'S A VERY TRAGIC ACTOR!


ANYWAY, YUU-SAN,
ALTHOUGH THIS HAPPENED EARLIER THAN I EXPECTED, THIS CHANGE MIGHT NOT BAD FOR FUJINOSUKE
THAT'S RIGHT!
IS— IS THAT SO?
WHEN FUJINOSUKE WAS VERY YOUNG, HIS FATHER PASSED AWAY...


FROM THEN ON,
ALL THE FAMILY'S EXPECTATIONS FELL ON HIM.
I EVEN SWORE
"IF I CAN'T MAKE HIM SHINE, MY LIFE WOULD BE IN VAIN"
HEH
HEH
BUT,
HE'S REALLY AN AMAZING CHILD


UNDER MY TUTELAGE, HE'S ALWAYS GRITTING HIS TEETH, HOLDING B.CK HIS TEARS IN SILENCE...
ONLY ...
ONCE...


HE WAS REHEARSING FOR HIS DEBUT PERFORMANCE "IMOSEYAMA ONNA TEIKIN",
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SHOWED HIM, HE COULDN'T DO IT RIGHT...
T/N: Imoseyama Onna Teikin is a classical Kabuki play, based on the Taika coup d'etat in 645, in which Emperor Tenchi with his loyal minister Fujiwara no Kamatari, succeeded in destroying the wicked Soga no Iruka.

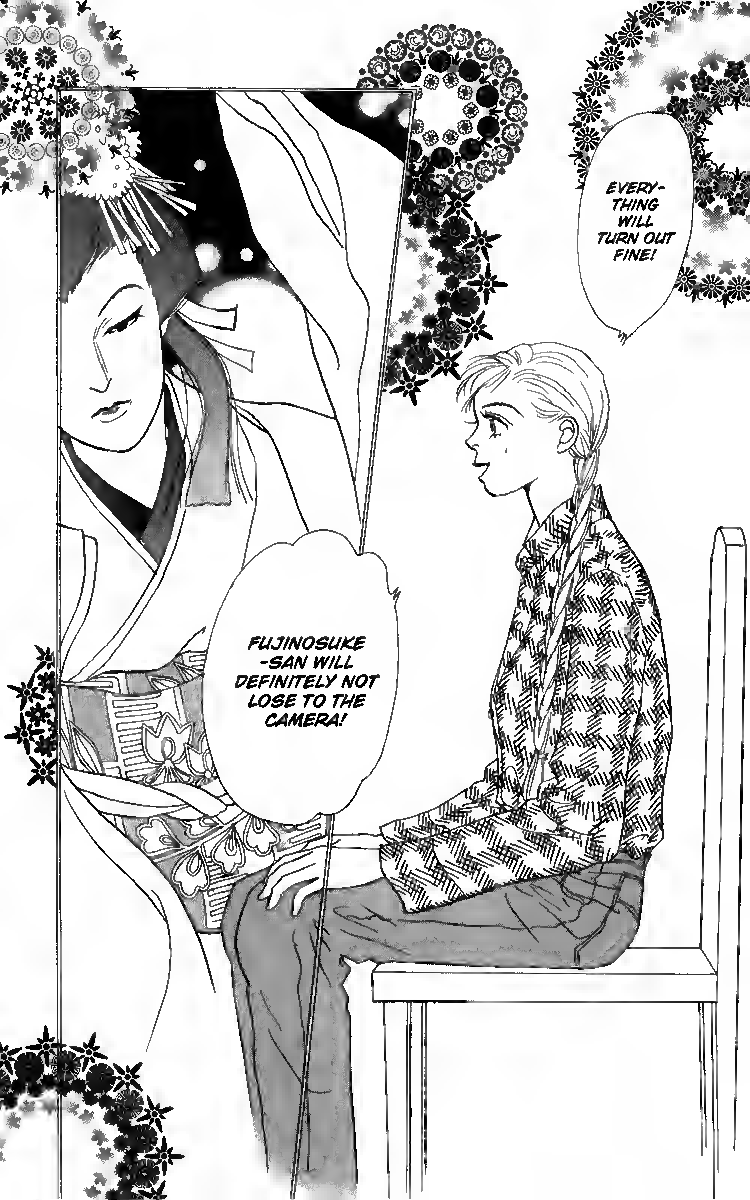

WITH PHOTOS OF HIS FATHER SURROUND-ING HIM,
SUCH INTENSE ANGER AND SORROW
INTERTWINED IN HIM WHENEVER HE LOOKED AT THEM
IT WAS A NEW EXPRESSION FOR HIM...


WE'D BETTER COME BACK TO THE MAIN TOPIC!
AH,
HEH
HEH
ANYWAY, MAYBE IT'S THE ENVIRONMENT HE GREW UP IN,
BUT FUJINOSUKE KNOWS AND CARES FOR NOTHING OUTSIDE THE WORLD OF KABUKI.
THIS IS A FATAL WOUND FOR AN ACTOR, YUU-SAN.
SO, I'M REALLY VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU,
FOR CREATING A DESIRE IN FUJINOSUKE TO EXPLORE OTHER WORLDS ...

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HEH
HEH
HEH
MAYBE YOU DON'T REALIZE IT JUST YET, BUT THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR INFLUENCE.
fervently denying
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, Really!
ANYWAY, YUU-SAN,
BESIDES THANKING YOU, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.
Huh?
?
?


FUJINOSUKE AGREED TO ACT IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA BECAUSE OF YOUR PERSUASION.
THIS TV DRAMA IS ALSO YOUR WORK..
HE'S MY MOST IMPORTANT HEIR.
PLEASE . DON'T LET HIM BECOME A LAUGHING STOCK.


EVERY-THING WILL TURN OUT FINE!
FUJINOSUKE -SAN WILL DEFINITELY NOT LOSE TO THE CAMERA!


IN MY HEAD, THIS ROLE FITS FUJINOSUKE-SAN SO WELL IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS CUSTOM-MADE JUST FOR HIM!
NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS THINK, I BELIEVE THAT FUJINO-SUKE-SAN WILL DO THE ROLE JUSTICE.
YES, HE WILL!

OH,
GRANNY
NOW AS I THINK BACK,
I REALLY WAS ...
SO DISGUSTINGLY SELF-RIGHTEOUS
...A COMPLETE AND UTTER IDIOT.


ASHITA NO OUSAMA
明日の王様
UNIT 39



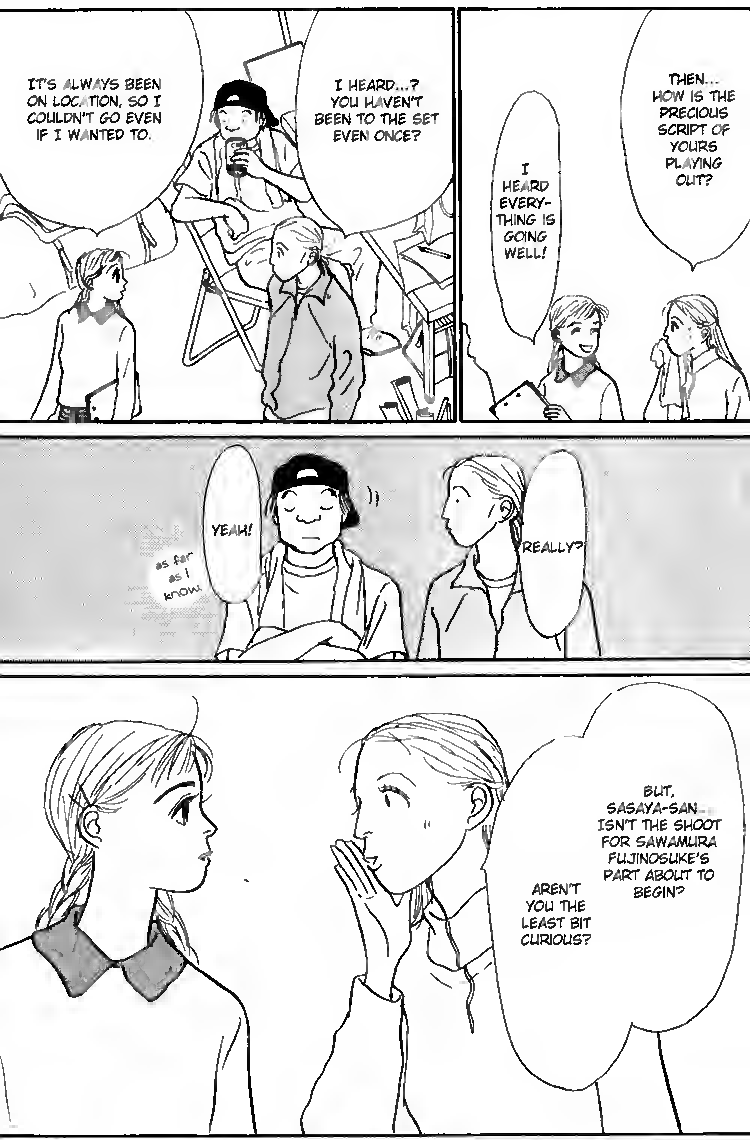

AH, GRANNY —
CAN I GO BUY SOME CANDY?
KACHA!
OH WELL, I DON'T CARE ANYMORE!
AH~~
IT'S STILL SNOWING?
I KNOW, GRANNY!
YUU, BE CAREFUL OUT THERE, DON'T TRIP AND FALL!
OF COURSE, BUT DON'T GO TOO FAR! IT'S ALMOST DARK...
OKAY!


GRANNY ALWAYS LIKES TO WORRY!
AHA HA HA!
THE COLDER IT IS, THE MORE EXCITED I AM
TO ME, HARSH WINTERS AREN'T SCARY AT ALL
THE MORE IT SNOWS,
THE HAPPIER I FEEL

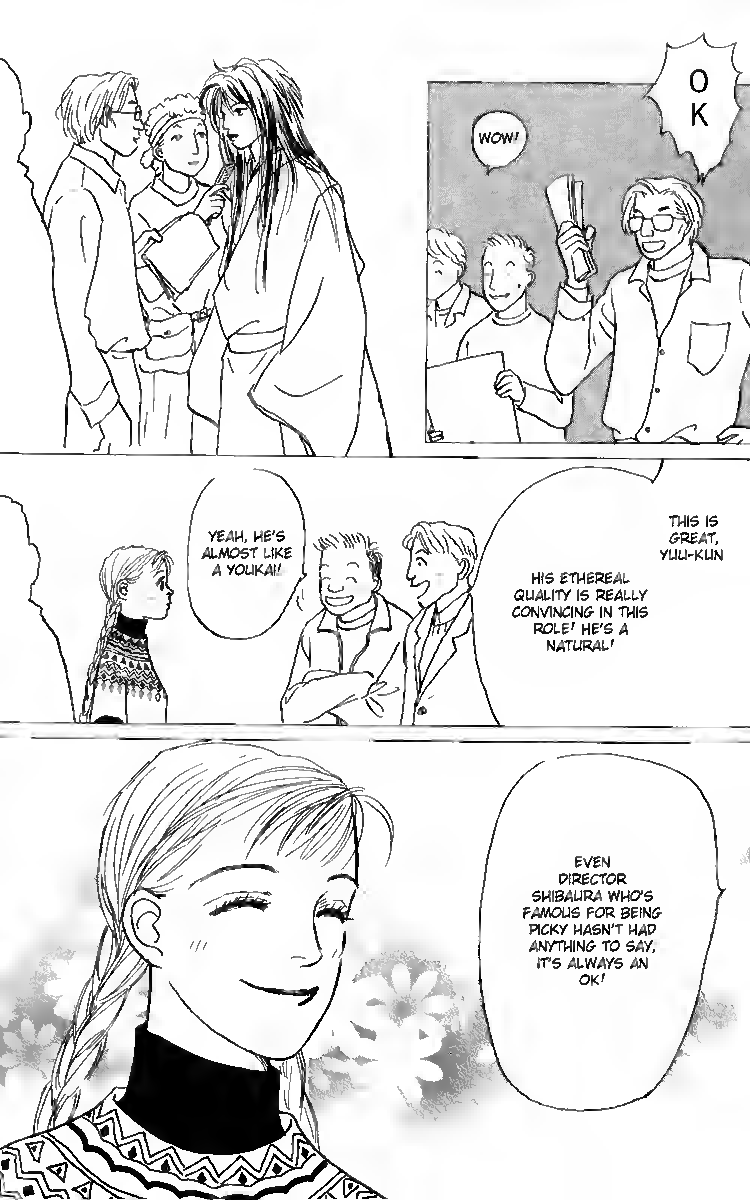


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BRRR...
...IT MAKES ME COLD JUST HEARING ABOUT IT.
EH?
REALLY?
BECAUSE YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT WINTER AND SNOW...
BUT, I WAS REALLY HAPPY BACK THEN!
NN, I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN.
THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS PIECE COMES FROM THE MEMORIES OF YOUR CHILDHOOD, RIGHT?
YEAH.
THIS SCRIPT REPRESENTS ALL MY MEMORIES OF GRANNY...
BECAUSE IN MY HEART THE LITTLE BITS AND PIECES OF HAPPINESS SHE BROUGHT STILL LINGER

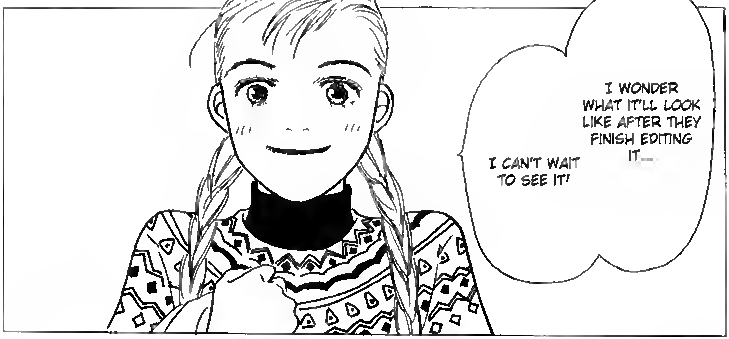

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ON LOCATION, SO I COULDN'T GO EVEN IF I WANTED TO.
I HEARD...? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE SET EVEN ONCE?
I HEARD EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL!
THEN... HOW IS THE PRECIOUS SCRIPT OF YOURS PLAYING OUT?
YEAH! as far as I know.
REALLY?
AREN'T YOU THE LEAST BIT CURIOUS?
BUT, SASAYA-SAN... ISN'T THE SHOOT FOR SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE'S PART ABOUT TO BEGIN?

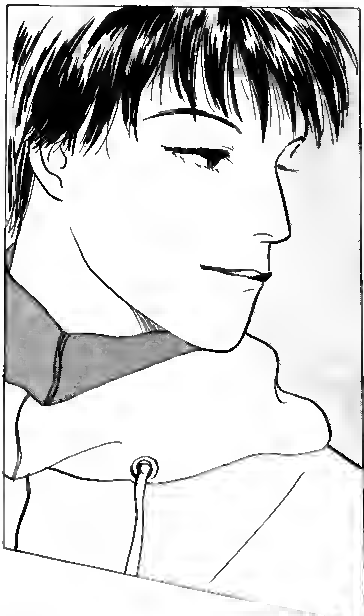

Employees Only!
WHAT?
THEY'RE DOING STUDIO WORK? AND THEY'VE ALREADY BEGUN?
HOW COULD YOU KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM ME? TAKE ME, TAKE ME! I WANNA SEE HIS ACTING SKILLS!
CUT!
THAT... I'M AFRAID IT ISN'T POSSIBLE.


OK
WOW!
THIS IS GREAT, YUU-KUN
HIS ETHEREAL QUALITY IS REALLY CONVINCING IN THIS ROLE! HE'S A NATURAL!
YEAH, HE'S ALMOST LIKE A YOUKAI!
EVEN DIRECTOR SHIBAURA WHO'S FAMOUS FOR BEING PICKY HASN'T HAD ANYTHING TO SAY, IT'S ALWAYS AN OK!


YOU WERE GREAT! EVERYONE'S COMPLIMENTING YOUR PERFORMANCE NON-STOP!
THERE WERE CHARACTERS LIKE THIS IN KABUKI AS WELL,
AND THERE ARE ALMOST NO LINES...
AS LONG AS I KEEP THINKING THAT, I STOP BEING SO NERVOUS BEFORE GOING ON
YEAH!
BEING RELAXED CAN ONLY HELP IMMERSE YOU IN YOUR ROLE
WHEN THE ON LOCATION PARTS ARE OVER,
AND YOUR STUDIO WORK DONE,
THERE'S ONLY THE EDITING AND EFFECTS LEFT BEFORE IT'S FINISHED!

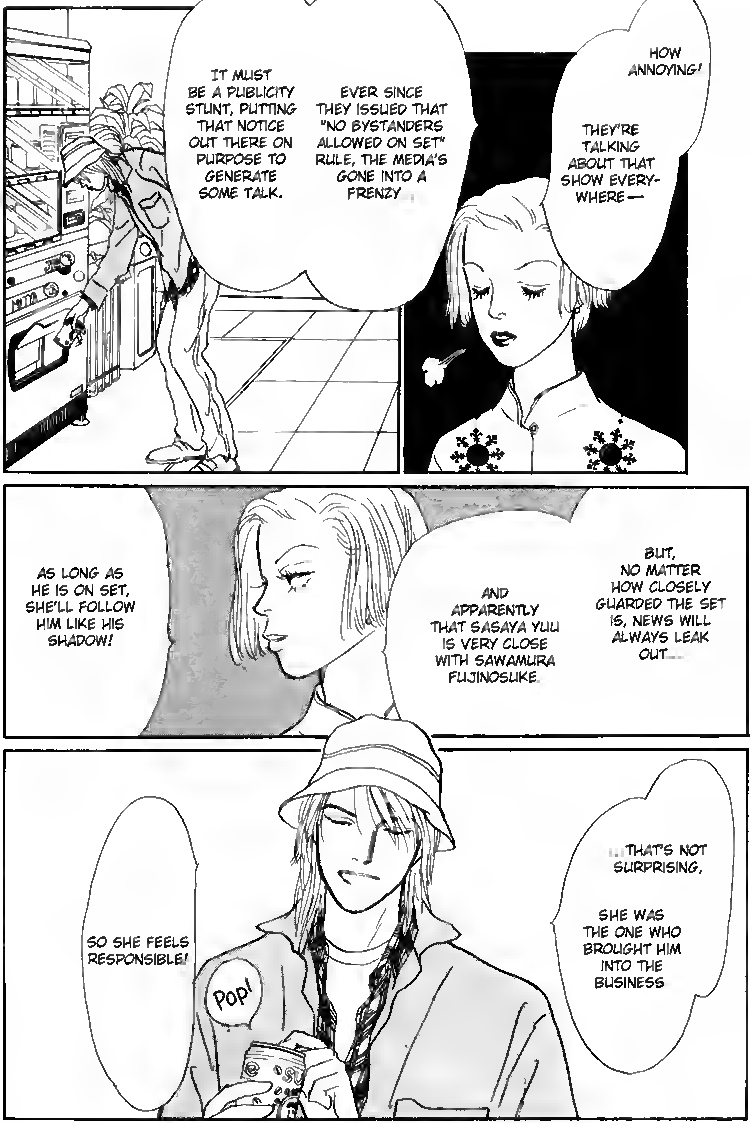
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I WONDER WHAT IT'LL LOOK LIKE AFTER THEY FINISH EDITING IT...
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT!




IT'LL BE YOUR LAST SHOOT NEXT WEEK, GOOD LUCK!




IT MUST BE A PUBLICITY STUNT, PUTTING THAT NOTICE OUT THERE ON PURPOSE TO GENERATE SOME TALK.
EVER SINCE THEY ISSUED THAT "NO BYSTANDERS ALLOWED ON SET" RULE, THE MEDIA'S GONE INTO A FRENZY...
HOW ANNOYING!
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT SHOW EVERYWHERE—
AS LONG AS HE IS ON SET, SHE'LL FOLLOW HIM LIKE HIS SHADOW!
AND APPARENTLY THAT SASAYA YUU IS VERY CLOSE WITH SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE.
BUT, NO MATTER HOW CLOSELY GUARDED THE SET IS, NEWS WILL ALWAYS LEAK OUT...
SO SHE FEELS RESPONSIBLE!
Pop!
...THAT'S NOT SURPRISING,
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT HIM INTO THE BUSINESS


WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
RESPONSIBLE?
IS IT REALLY JUST THAT?
NOTHING.
...



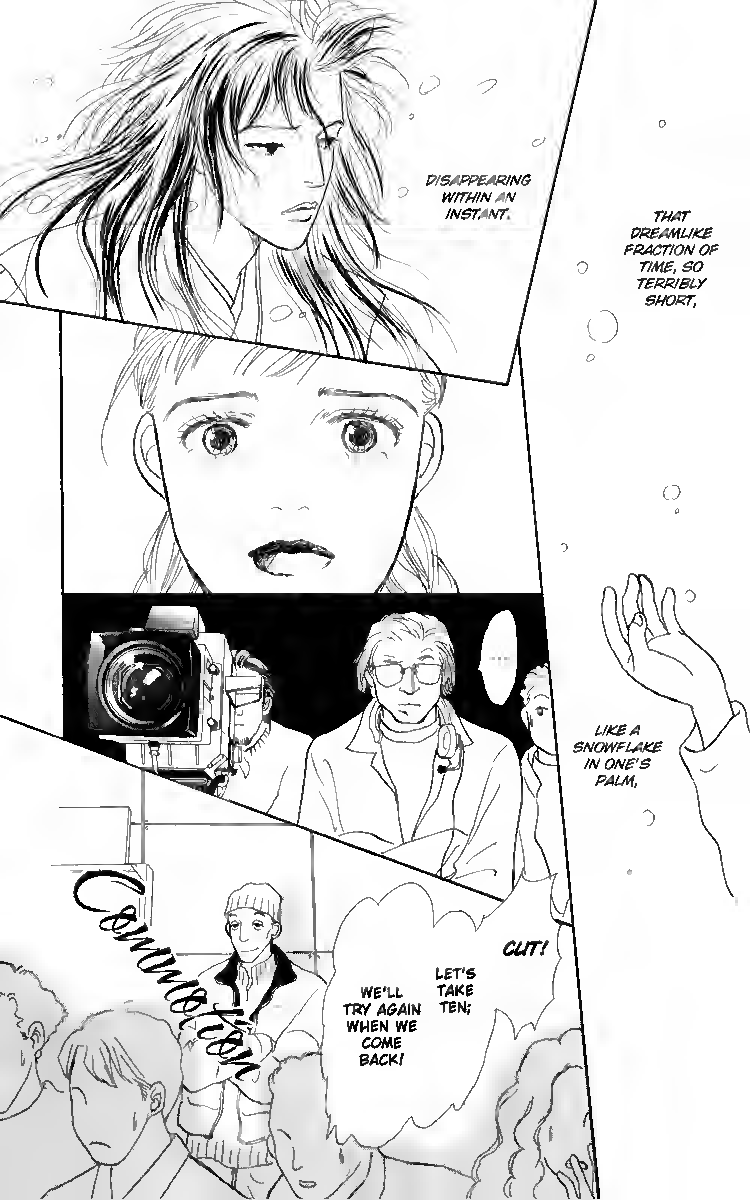
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HAHAHA! IT WOULDN'T MATTER IF I WENT WITH YOU!
I'M NOT THAT INFLUEN-TIAL!
NO CAN DO! THE PRODUCTION COMPANY INSISTS THAT ONLY EMPLOYEES ARE ALLOWED—
EH?
WAIT UP! I WANNA SEE TOO!



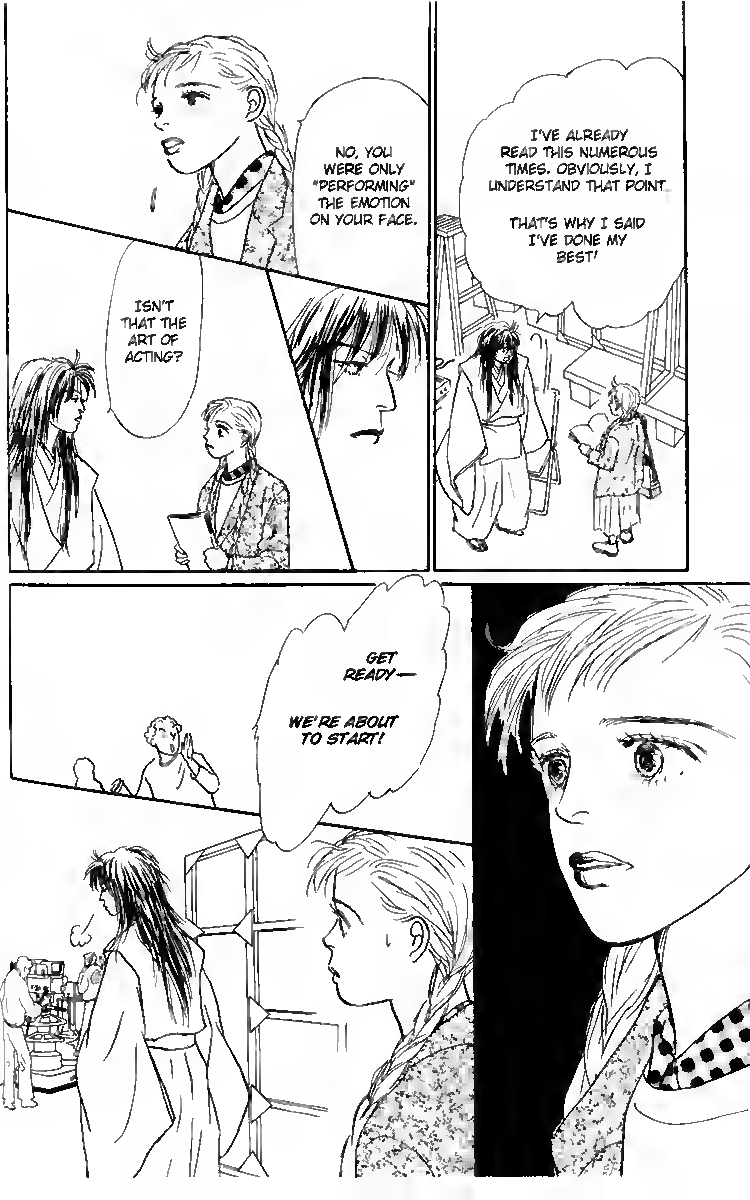
(JW: note - marks are where you must stand or stop so that you're in frame, usually marked with a plastic "T")


IS THE MAIN CHARACTER'S, THE YOUNG KANAKO'S, OTHER SELF
THE "SNOW FOX"
THE SNOW FOX THAT APPEARED OUT OF HER GRANDMOTHER'S COUNTRYSIDE FOLKLORE,
HE'S THE ONE WHO WOULD LISTEN TO HER PERSONAL THOUGHTS, TALK AND LAUGH WITH HER,
THE ONLY FRIEND SHE HAS, STEMMED FROM HER IMAGINATION
MATERIALIZED INTO REALITY,
BECAUSE OF THE LONG AND SOLITARY LIFE IN THE SNOWY NORTH

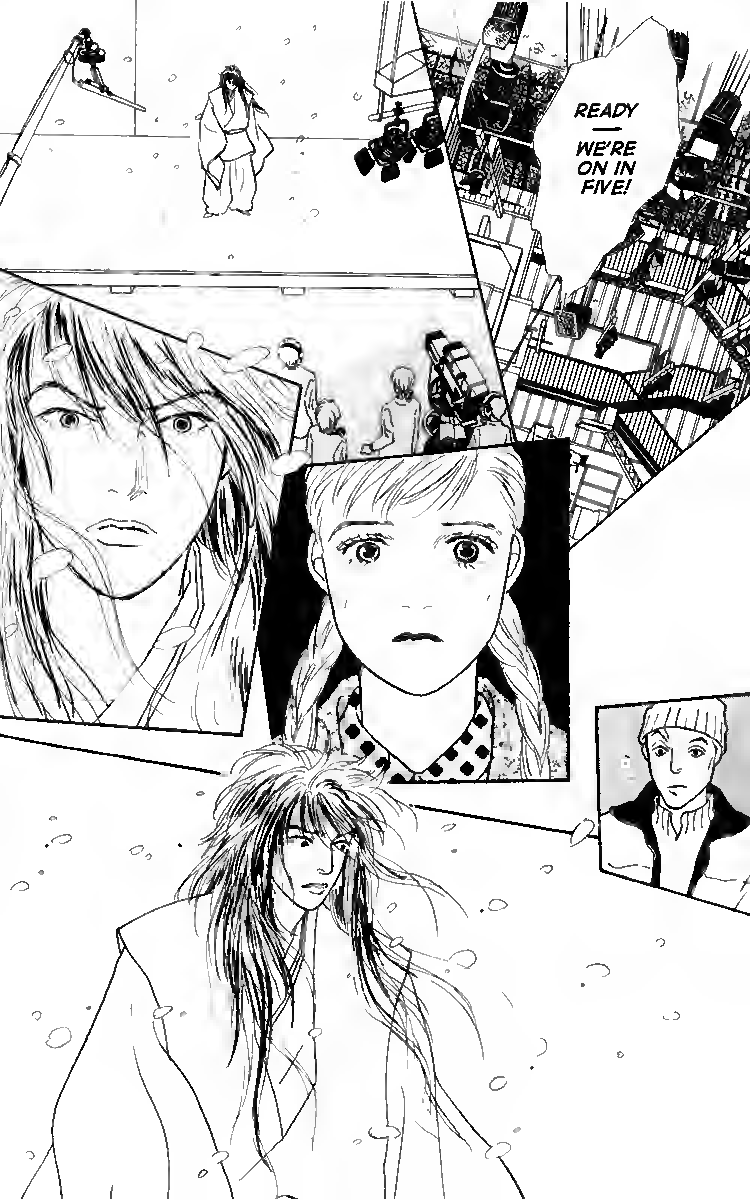

DISAPPEARING WITHIN AN INSTANT.
THAT DREAMLIKE FRACTION OF TIME, SO TERRIBLY SHORT,
LIKE A SNOWFLAKE IN ONE'S PALM,
CUT!
LET'S TAKE TEN;
WE'LL TRY AGAIN WHEN WE COME BACK!
Connection


TENTH?!
THIS IS THE TENTH BREAK
Ah.
PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE—
FUJINOSUKE-SAN,
YOUR PERFORMANCE BEFORE WAS CONSISTENTLY VERY GOOD, SO I DON'T WANT TO SETTLE FOR SHOTS LIKE THE ONE JUST NOW.
PLEASE USE THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE ROLE, I'M WAITING TO SEE YOUR REAL ABILITIES
...
FUJINO-SUKE-SAN


I ALREADY DID MY BEST
THEY WERE ALL COMPLIMENTING ME ON HOW WELL I INTERPRETED THE CALLOUS YOUKAI SO WELL, BUT NOW THEY'RE ASKING ME TO SHOW A MORE HUMAN EXPRESSION FOR THIS DEMON...
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE...?
I AGREE WITH THE DIRECTOR, I ALSO WANT TO SEE YOUR TRUE ABILITIES
THIS SCENE IS THE GIRL'S FAREWELL TO THE SNOW FOX.
IT'S WHERE SHE SAYS GOODBYE TO HER IMAGINARY SELF...
SO, THE SNOW FOX'S EXPRESSION REALLY BECOMES THE EXPRESSION OF THE YOUNG GIRL...

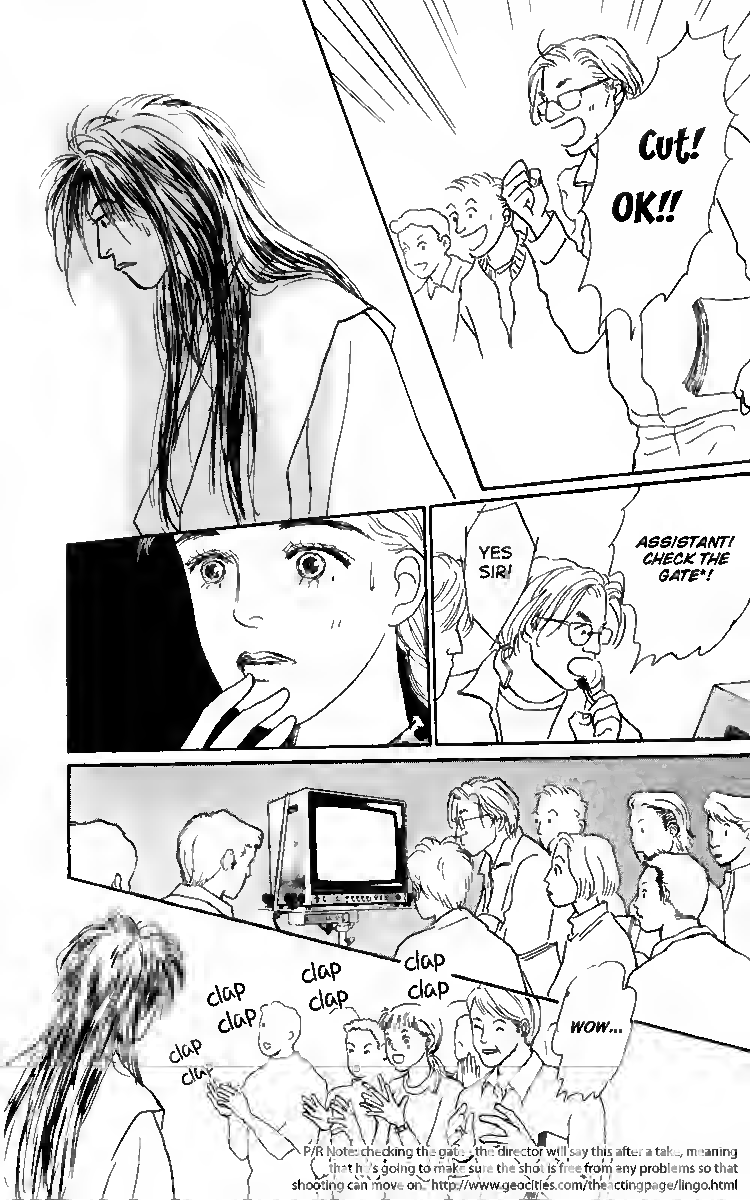

NO, YOU WERE ONLY "PERFORMING" THE EMOTION ON YOUR FACE.
ISN'T THAT THE ART OF ACTING?
I'VE ALREADY READ THIS NUMEROUS TIMES. OBVIOUSLY, I UNDERSTAND THAT POINT.
THAT'S WHY I SAID I'VE DONE MY BEST!
GET READY—
WE'RE ABOUT TO START!


ONLY...
ONCE...
FUJINO-SUKE-SAN...
YOUR FATHER—
REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FATHER


READY
—
WE'RE ON IN FIVE!


CAMERA 3!
ZOOM IN!
A LITTLE CLOSER!!


Silence——



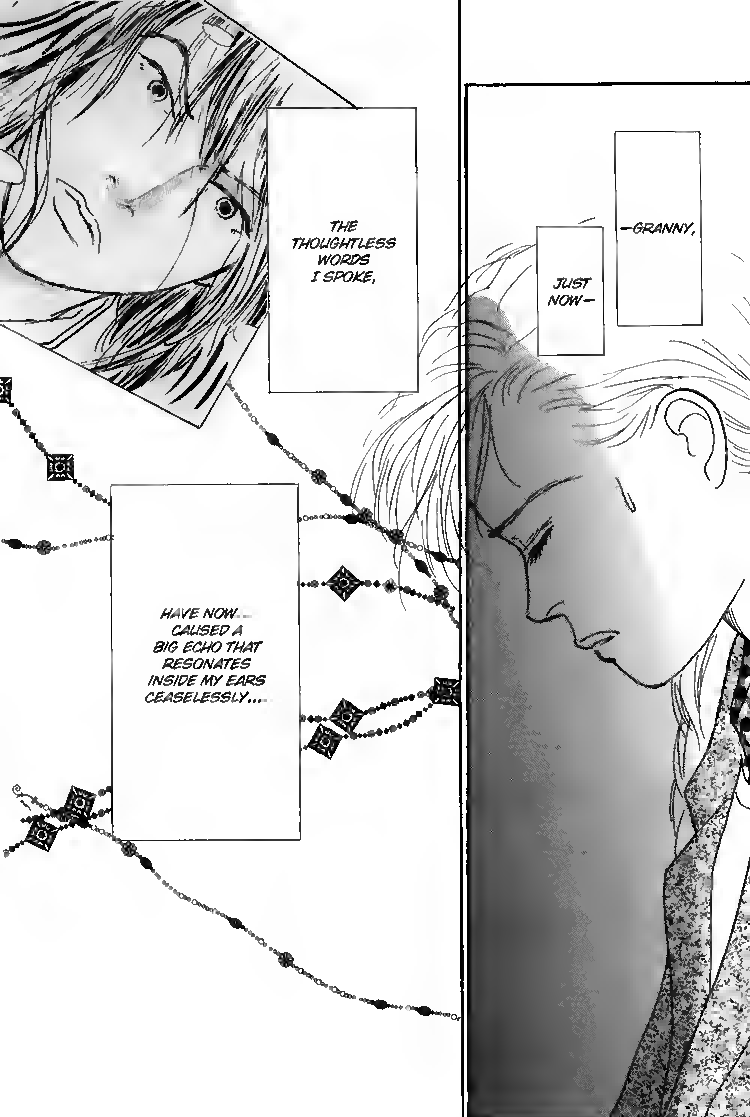
P/R Note: checking the gate - the director will say this after a take, meaning that he's going to make sure the shot is free from any problems so that shooting can move on. http://www.geocities.com/theactingpage/lingo.html


FUJINOSUKE-SAN!
YOUR SKILLS ARE MUCH BETTER THAN I ANTICIPATED!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
NO THAT'S... I—
FUJINO-SUKE-SAN!
PLEASE WAIT!
Push Away

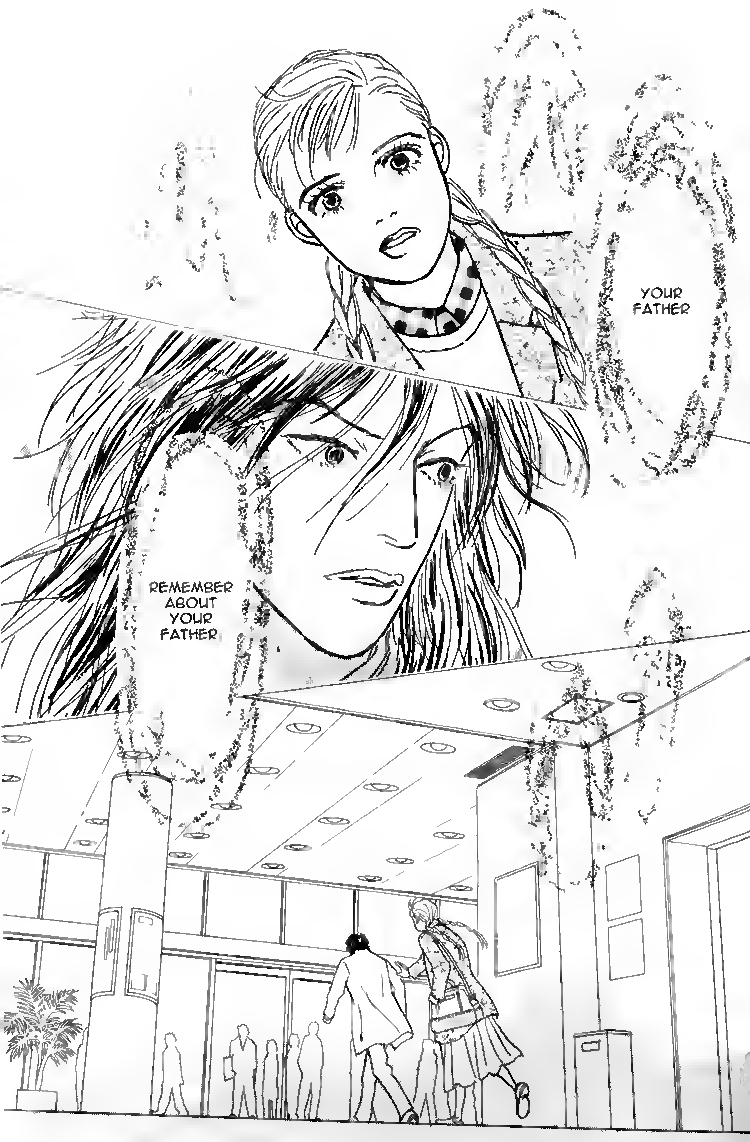

I—
THAT...
THAT SORT OF THING, THAT'S NOT ACTING!
FUJINO-SUKE-SAN!


LOOKS LIKE THE MARIONETTE IS SLOWLY BECOMING HUMAN
...WHY DID YOU SAY THAT?
HE JUST HAPPENED TO DISCOVER HIS OTHER SELF
AH~
WHAT A SHAME, I WAS HOPING TO INJECT A BIT OF LIFE INTO THAT PUPPET MYSELF!
KAZUMA-SAN...
I HAVE TO ASK.
JUST WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HIM BEFORE HE WENT ON?

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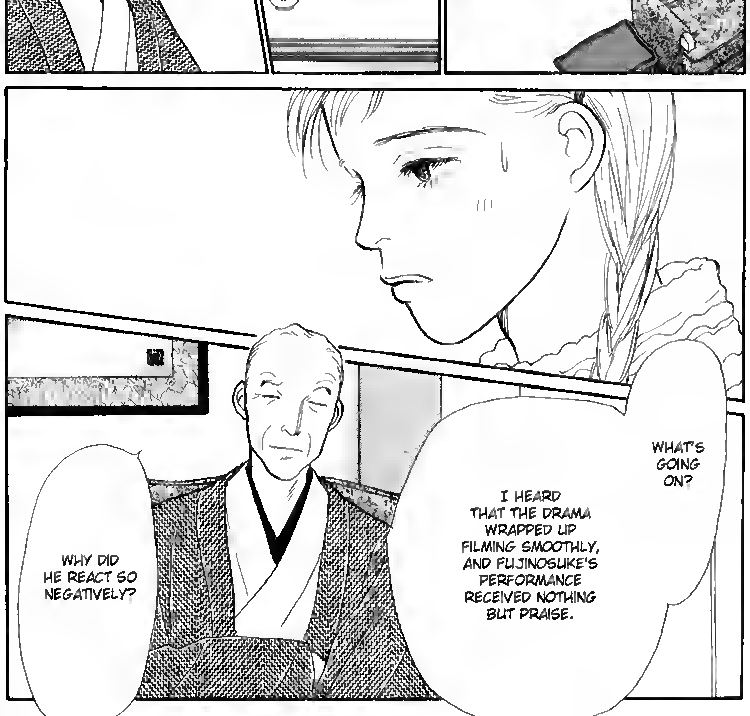

THE THOUGHTLESS WORDS I SPOKE,
HAVE NOW... CAUSED A BIG ECHO THAT RESONATES INSIDE MY EARS CEASELESSLY...
—GRANNY,
JUST NOW—

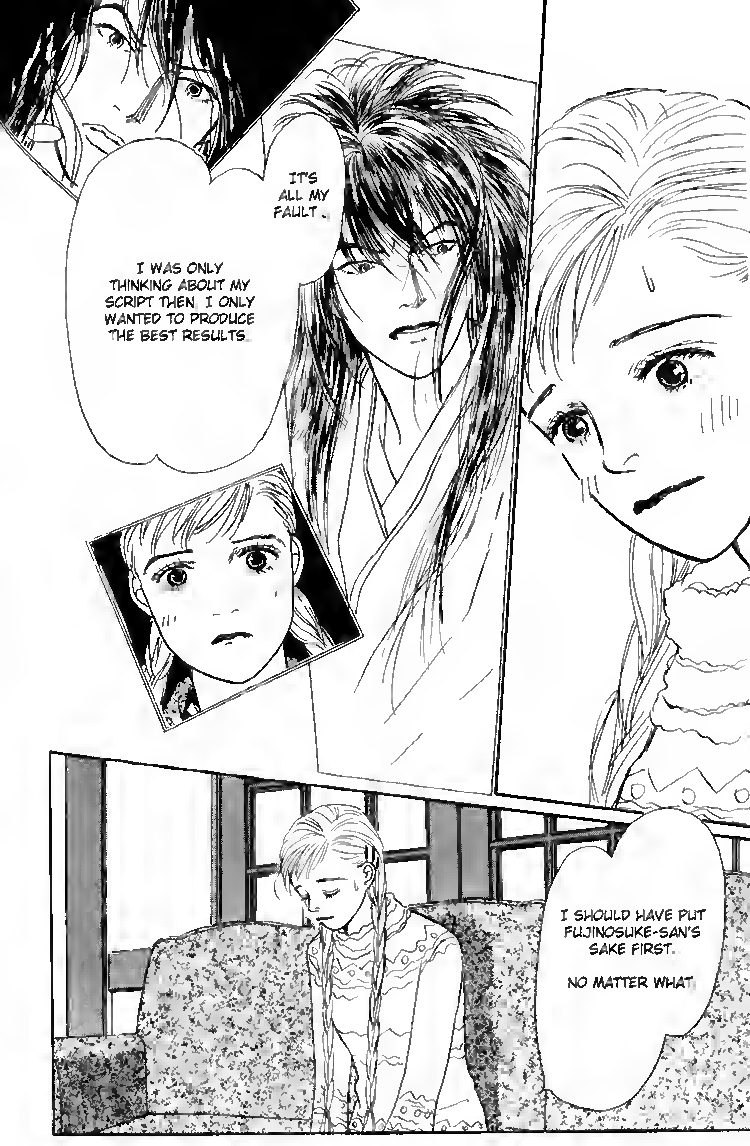

ASHITA NO OUSAMA
明日の王様
UNIT 40


YOUR FATHER
REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FATHER


THAT SORT OF THING,
THAT'S NOT ACTING!!
THAT'S NOT ACTING

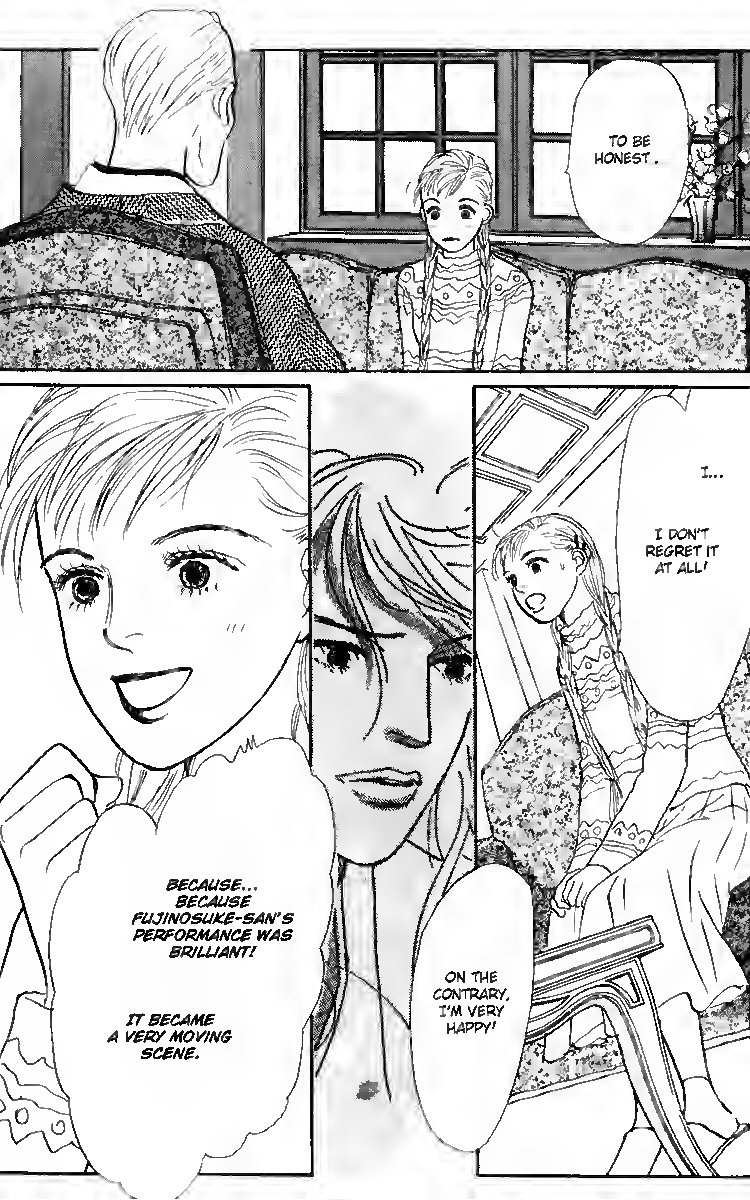

My, oh my
HE SAYS HE DOESN'T WISH TO SEE YOU.
ERM
clack

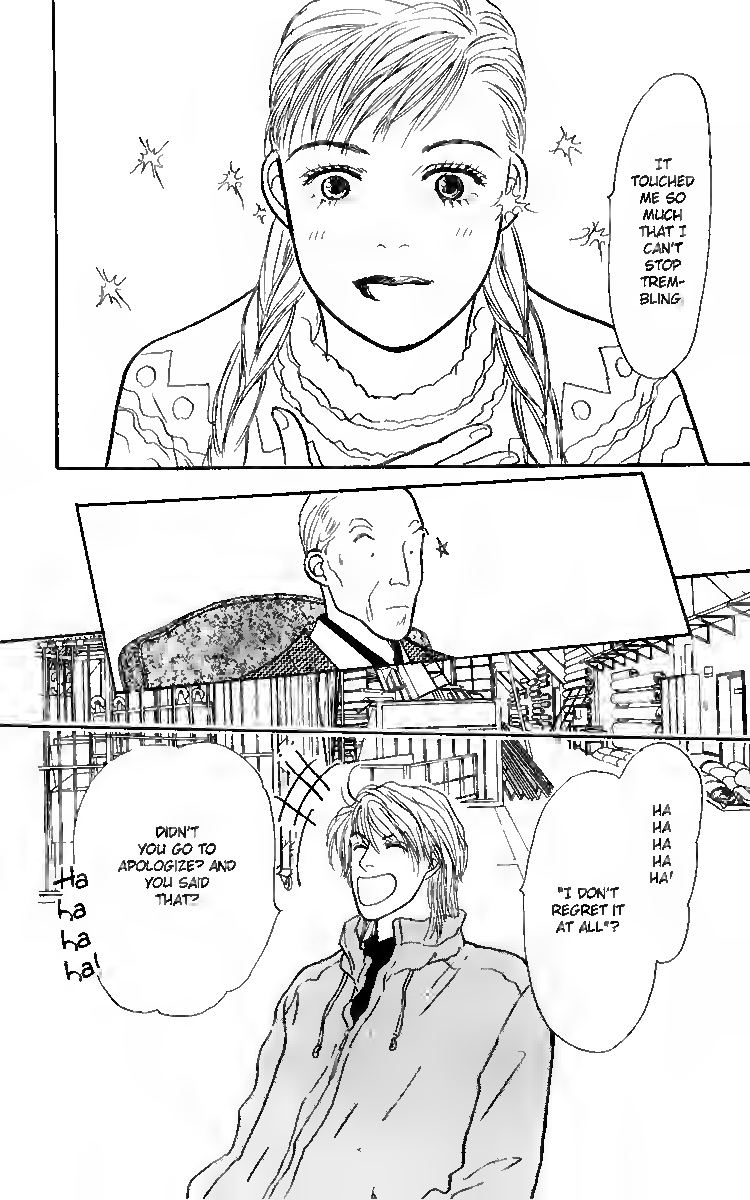

WHY DID HE REACT SO NEGATIVELY?
I HEARD THAT THE DRAMA WRAPPED UP FILMING SMOOTHLY, AND FUJINOSUKE'S PERFORMANCE RECEIVED NOTHING BUT PRAISE.
WHAT'S GOING ON?


IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT MY SCRIPT THEN. I ONLY WANTED TO PRODUCE THE BEST RESULTS.
I SHOULD HAVE PUT FUJINOSUKE-SAN'S SAKE FIRST.
NO MATTER WHAT.

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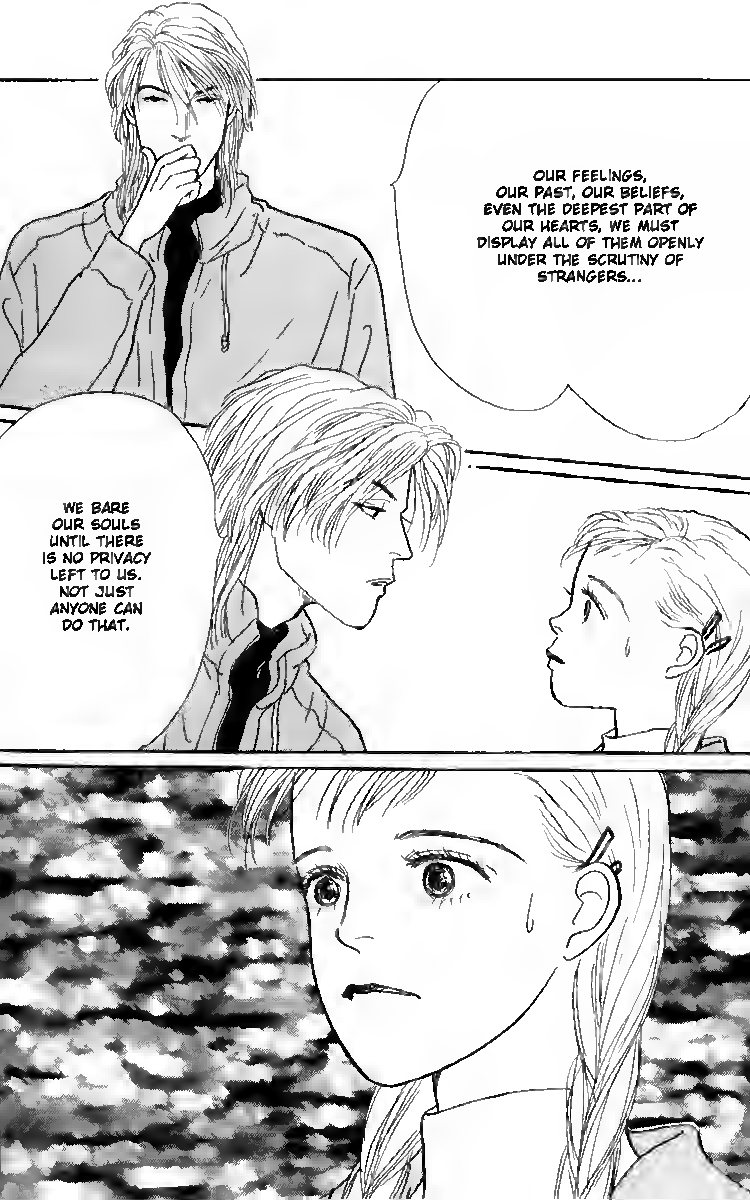



TO BE HONEST.
I...
I DON'T REGRET IT AT ALL!
ON THE CONTRARY, I'M VERY HAPPY!
BECAUSE... BECAUSE FUJINOSUKE-SAN'S PERFORMANCE WAS BRILLIANT!
IT BECAME A VERY MOVING SCENE.


IT TOUCHED ME SO MUCH THAT I CAN'T STOP TREMBLING
HA HA HA HA HA!
"I DON'T REGRET IT AT ALL"?
DIDN'T YOU GO TO APOLOGIZE? AND YOU SAID THAT?
Ha ha ha ha!


IF SO, WHY THE LONG FACE NOW?
BUT THAT WAS HOW I TRULY FELT. .
AS DIRECTOR-CUM-SCRIPTWRITER, SASAYA YUU HOLDS NO REGRETS!
BUT, AS A HUMAN, I SHOULD REFLECT ON THE FACT THAT I HURT HIM
HURT?


ONLY ACTORS WITH LITTLE TALENT ARE SATISFIED WITH PETTY OUTCOMES. THIS IS GOOD FOR HIM.
HN! IF HE'S GOING TO BLEED TO DEATH FROM SUCH A SMALL WOUND, HE'S IN THE WRONG BUSINESS!
"ACTING" IS A SCARY THING.
TO DEPEND ON SKILL ALONE WOULD GET US NOWHERE.
WHEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT A TOUGH ROLE, WE MUST GO TO ANY EXTENT, EVEN BARING OUR SOULS TO THE AUDIENCE...


OUR FEELINGS, OUR PAST, OUR BELIEFS, EVEN THE DEEPEST PART OF OUR HEARTS, WE MUST DISPLAY ALL OF THEM OPENLY UNDER THE SCRUTINY OF STRANGERS...
WE BARE OUR SOULS UNTIL THERE IS NO PRIVACY LEFT TO US. NOT JUST ANYONE CAN DO THAT.


TOLIYA-SAN,.. WERE YOU SCARED TOO?
TO SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND FLY, YOU MUST HAVE THE COURAGE TO FALL FROM THE SKY
IF YOU DON'T REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING THE FIRST STEP OUT OF THE NEST, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BECOME AN ACTOR.

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ME? UNLESS I CARVE OUT ACTING SKILLS THAT I MYSELF RECOGNIZE, I'LL NEVER BE SATISFIED...
THE PRICE I PAY IS SMALL; HOW CAN I BE SCARED!
THAT'S IT?
WHAT'S THERE TO BE SO TOUCHED ABOUT?


WHAT "THE AUDIENCE" WANTS TO SEE IS SIMPLY
THE ACTOR WHO DOES HIS BEST TO FULFILL THEIR ROLE!
FU FU, YOU'RE MAKING A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL!
DARING YOURSELF IN FRONT OF THE AUDIENCE, HE MADE IT SOUND SO SIMPLE.
BECAUSE TOUYA-SAN IS REALLY AMAZING!
You know!
ACCORDING TO THIS LOGIC, ACTORS MUST BE SUPER MASOCHISTS.
Fuuu...
SUCH A CONTRACT EXISTS ONLY IN THE WORLD OF THE THEATER
HAHAHAHAHA. IT'S REALLY HARD ON THEM!
TO TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER, THE MOST BRILLIANT ACTING MUST COME FROM THE ACTOR'S DEEPEST, DARKEST PARTS...
THE MORE THIS IS TRUE, THE MORE THE AUDIENCE ENJOYS THE SHOW.
Haha!
. CHIEF?

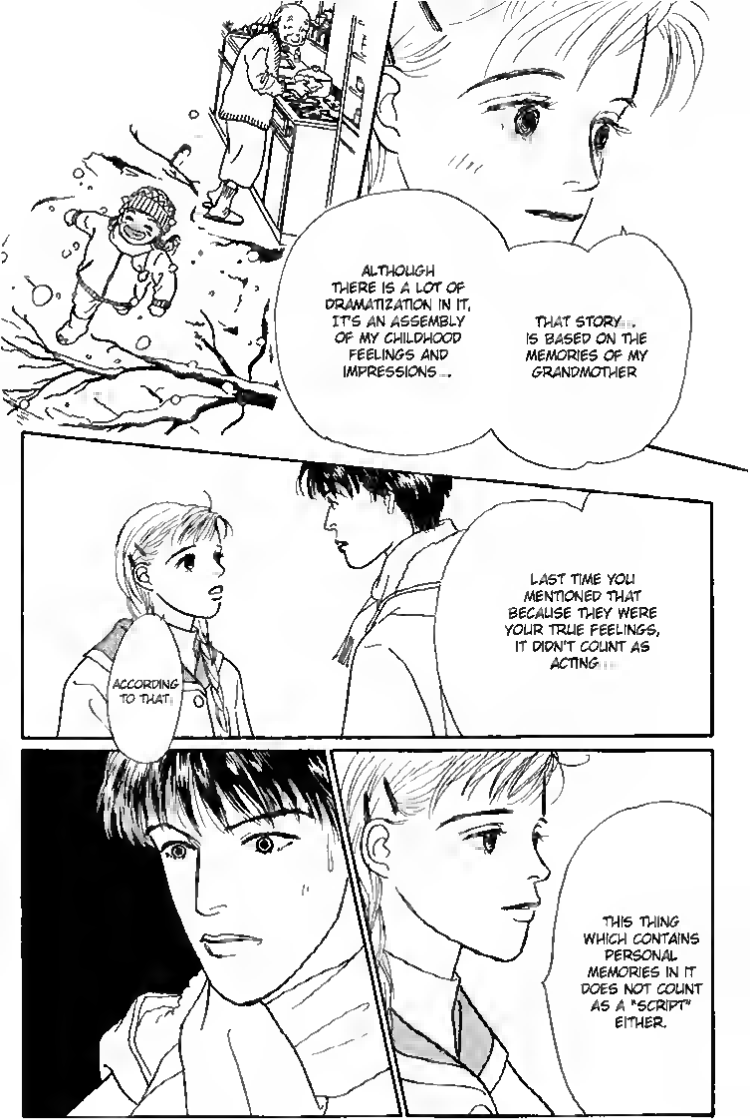

YOU, ME... WE'RE THE SAME AS THEM
BUT LET'S NOT BE THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK
TO CREATE ANYTHING A SIMILAR PROCESS IS REQUIRED
WE EXPRESS OUR LIFE'S EXPERIENCES THROUGH WRITTEN WORD ONLY AFTER FINDING THE NEW COMBINATION IN OURSELVES


HA HA HA HA!
WHAT WE HAVE INSIDE OUR HEAD,
WHAT WE KEEP HIDDEN FROM OTHERS WILL ALSO BE EXPOSED...
Beep
Ah! It went to sleep
AH.
GRANNY,
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.



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That kind of farce...?
THAT KIND OF FARCE...
I DEFINITELY WON'T WATCH IT!
Episode 2? : Official screenplay D.A.
I PLEADED WITH THE STATION FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE THEY WOULD LEND ME THIS.
The tape.


ALTHOUGH THERE IS A LOT OF DRAMATIZATION IN IT, IT'S AN ASSEMBLY OF MY CHILDHOOD FEELINGS AND IMPRESSIONS...
THAT STORY... IS BASED ON THE MEMORIES OF MY GRANDMOTHER
LAST TIME YOU MENTIONED THAT BECAUSE THEY WERE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS, IT DIDN'T COUNT AS ACTING...
ACCORDING TO THAT...
THIS THING WHICH CONTAINS PERSONAL MEMORIES IN IT DOES NOT COUNT AS A "SCRIPT" EITHER.


NO, THAT'S NOT...THE SCRIPT YOU WROTE WAS REALLY EXCELLENT!
THEN
PLEASE WATCH THIS CAREFULLY, TO SEE WHAT KIND OF TV DRAMA THAT SCRIPT WAS TURNED INTO
WATCH THE ACTING SKILLS THAT HAVE BEEN HIDDEN WITHIN YOU!
THAT MOMENT,
WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW THE BIRTH AND TRANSFORMATION OF A GOOD ACTOR.
I WAS REALLY TOUCHED,
SO TOUCHED THAT I COULDN'T STOP TREMBLING


FUJINO-SUKE-SAN,
YOU SAID YOU'D LIKE TO OPEN UP YOUR MIND TO APPRECIATE MORE AND MORE NEW THINGS.
TO COME ACROSS A FLOURISHING ACTOR IN THAT SACRED MOMENT...
IS THE EPITOME OF OUR HAPPINESS!


THEN, SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE, THE ACTOR...
PLEASE PUT UP AN EVEN RICHER PERFORMANCE
TAKING THE FIRST STEP OUT OF THE NEST...


VROOM
VROOM


COFFEE
GRANNY,
THE THOUGHTLESS WORDS I SAID MAY HAVE REALLY HURT HIM..
BUT, NOW I KNOW FOR SURE THAT I'M NOT WRONG


THAT DAY,
THE MOMENT HE UNDERSTOOD MY WORDS,
HIS EXPRESSION CHANGED INSTANTLY
THAT WAS TRULY THE FIRST BURGEONING OF SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE'S ACTING
I DEEPLY BELIEVE IT




"I DON'T REGRET IT AT ALL!"
Heh
Heh
INDEED.
Heh
AH!
FUJINO-SUKE-SAN!
YOUR PRAISES ARE EVERYWHERE!
LOOK AT THIS, IT'S IN THIS NEWSPAPER TOO!
Where are you going?
EH? FUJINOSUKE-SAN?
EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT YOUR DRAMA

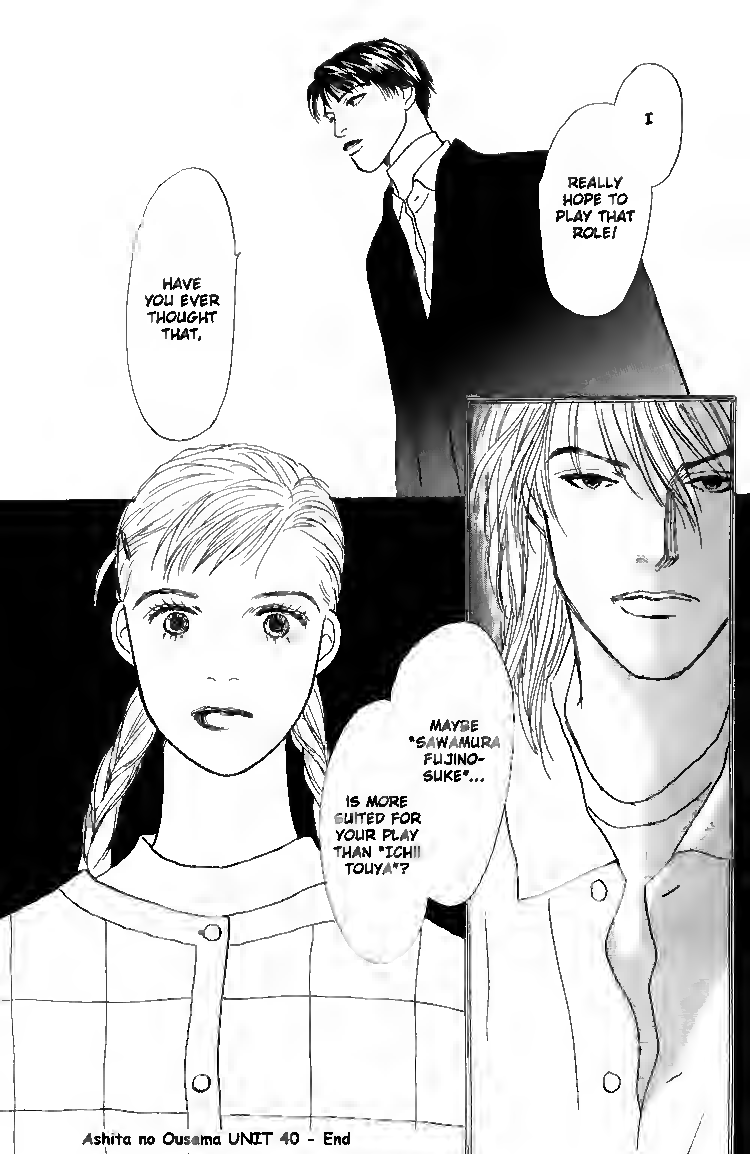

I'VE FINISHED IT!
"THE AGE-CHANGING MOUNTAIN PASS" IS FINALLY COMPLETED!
CHIEF, PLEASE TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK!


?
IT'S UNNECESSARY!
THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO CHECK.
AS LONG AS IT'S SASAYA YUU'S WORK, THAT'S ENOUGH ASSURANCE!
I'm still not up to mark, eah
CHIEF
YEAH,
IF YOU REALLY WANT SOMEONE TO TAKE A LOOK, IT SHOULD BE TOUYA, RIGHT?
AFTER ALL, THAT'S THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN YOU TWO.



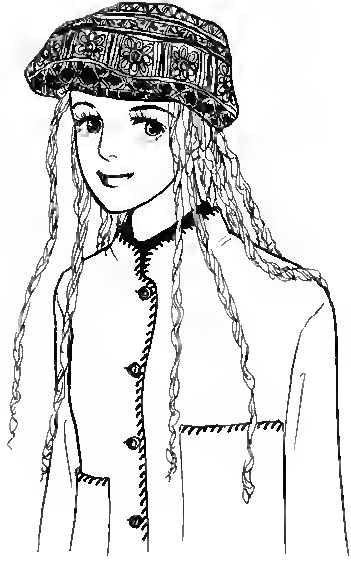
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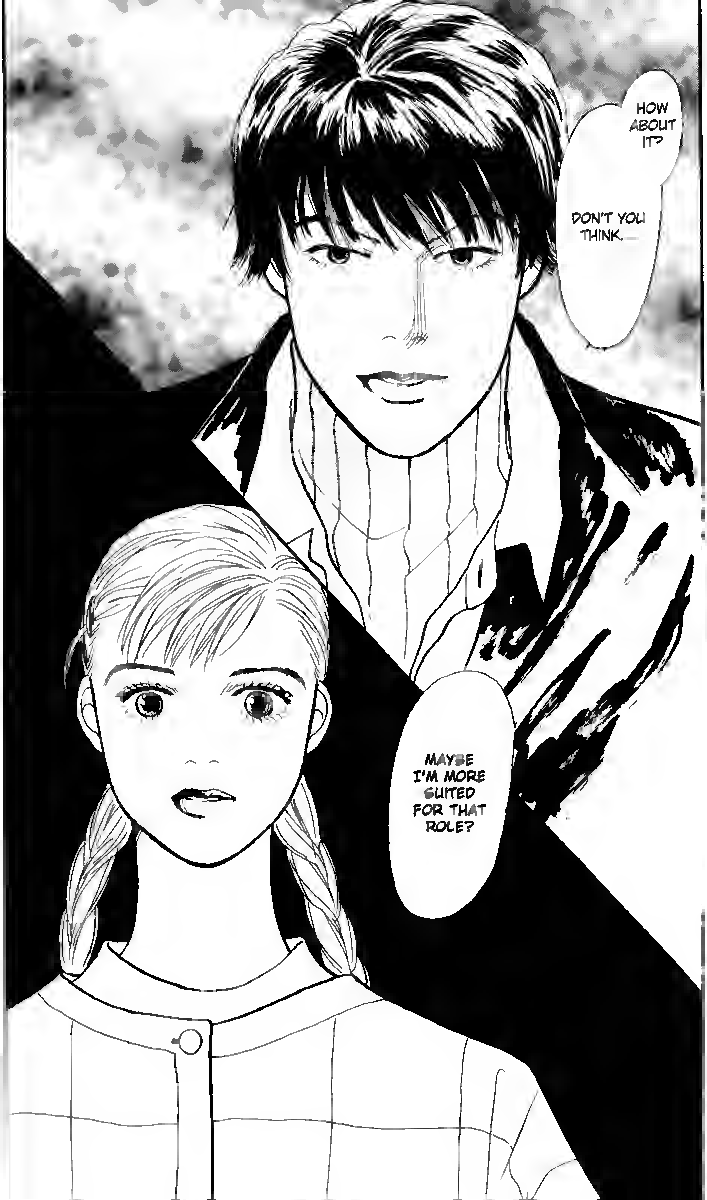

Eh. ?
DOES IT REALLY HAVE TO BE ICHII TOUYA? NO ONE ELSE WILL DO?
YOU SAID BEFORE,
YOU WISHED THAT THE ACTOR SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE WOULD APPRECIATE MORE NEW THINGS....


I REALLY HOPE TO PLAY THAT ROLE!
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT THAT,
MAYBE "SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE"... IS MORE SUITED FOR YOUR PLAY THAN "ICHII TOUYA"?




ASHITA NO OUSAMA
明日の王様
UNIT 41

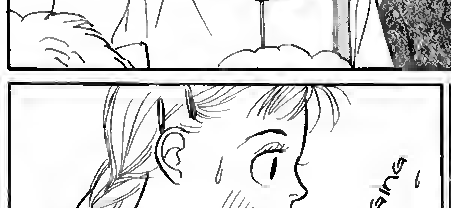



HOW ABOUT IT?
DON'T YOU THINK...
MAYBE I'M MORE SUITED FOR THAT ROLE?


IN AN UNTRODDEN AND FARAWAY PLACE DEEP WITHIN THE MOUNTAINS,
WE TRAVEL UPWARDS ALONG THE WINDING,
ALMOST INVISIBLE NATURAL TRAILS,
UNTIL WE REACH THE DEEPEST PART OF THE FOREST.
THERE STANDS A DILAPIDATED LITTLE TEAHOUSE.
QUIETLY IT STANDS AT THE END OF THE ROAD...
ON ARRIVAL,
BEFORE THE TRAVELERS FINALLY GET TO CATCH THEIR BREATH,
AN OLD MAN APPEARS.
HE IS AN OLD MAN WHO LIMPS SLOWLY AND WITH WRINKLES TELLING OF TIMES PAST DEEPLY ENGRAVED INTO HIS FACE.


HE WARMLY OFFERS A CUP OF HOT TEA TO THE EXHAUSTED TRAVELERS WHO HAVE COME A LONG WAY...
I'VE BEEN WATCHING OVER THIS TEAHOUSE ALONE FOR MANY, MANY YEARS,
IN THIS WILDERNESS DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS, I DON'T USUALLY HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO—
IT'S RARE THAT ANYONE PASSES BY, SO THE OLD MAN IS VERY GLAD,
AND HE DOES THE BEST HE CAN, ENTHUSIASTI-CALLY ENTERTAINING THE TRAVELERS



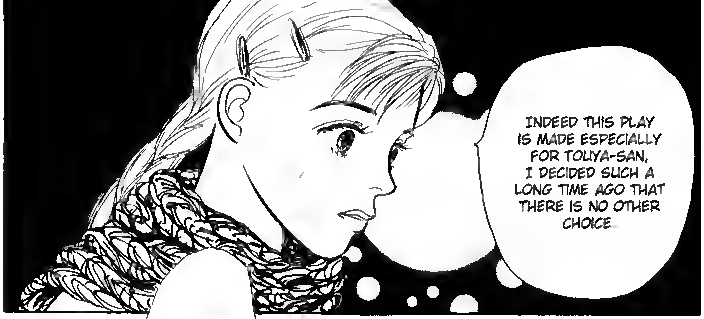




HE'S SO CONFIDENT IT'S SCARY... ACTUALLY CHALLENGING ICHII TOUYA WITHOUT ANY HESITATION!

I THINK...

HE PROBABLY MISUNDERSTOOD ME.






IT SOUNDS LIKE THAT TO ME!
IF YOU REALLY ACKNOWLEDGE MY ABILITIES, WHY WON'T YOU GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO COMPETE EQUALLY WITH HIM?
I DON'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.

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Erm
YOU SEE, FUJINOSUKE-SAN...
THAT SCRIPT IS WHAT I WROTE ONE-SIDEDLY, HOW TO PRESENT IT, WHERE TO STAGE IT...
Honest!
I HAVEN'T EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THE TECHNICAL ISSUES!
SO, NOW EVERYTHING IS STILL JUST CASTLES IN THE AIR. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT CAN BE STAGED!
There's still a long way to go!

AFTERNOON TEA! A WONDERFUL TIME!

Flower fruit tea and cinnamon tea I like both of them!

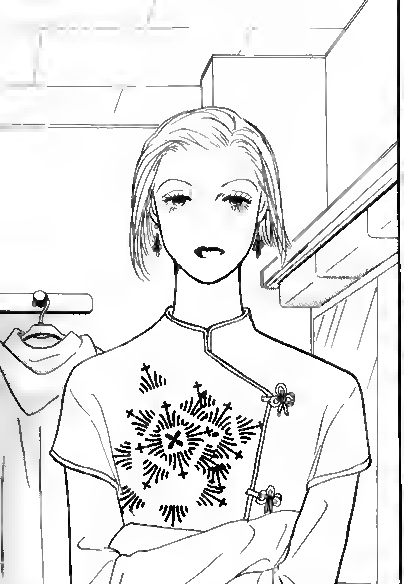


Ah

I love Earl Grey tea even more!


THAT PLAY WILL DEFINITELY BE STAGED
IF IT'S YOU, THERE'LL BE NO PROBLEM
I'M SURE OF THIS MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, THAT'S WHY I REALLY WANT THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ACT...
NO MATTER WHAT, I HAVE TO ACT IN THIS!

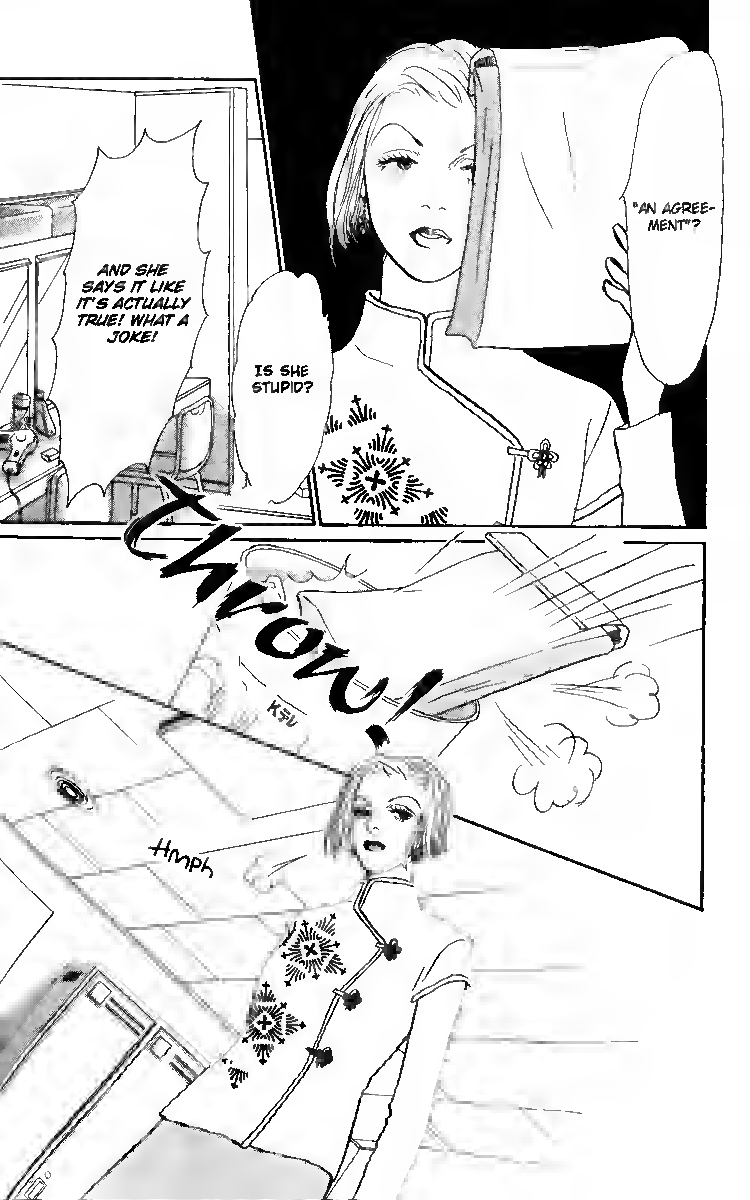
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WHY...
CAN IT ONLY BE ICHII TOUYA?


STILL FILMING ?
THEN... WHEN WILL IT END?

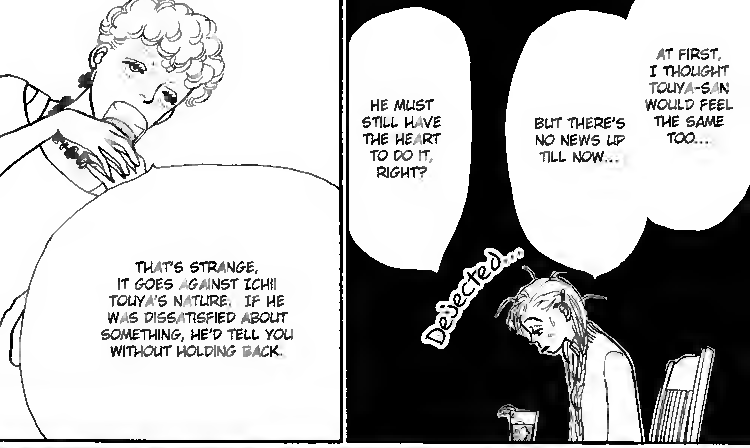

BESIDES, TOUYA DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF OFF-TIME, SO I DON'T WANT YOU DISTURBING HIM.
SO THERE'S NO POINT FOR YOU TO WAIT HERE.
THE TEAM HAS TO WORK THROUGH THE NIGHT TO EVEN CATCH UP. IT WON'T END SOON,
THIS IS WHAT WAS AGREED ON BETWEEN TOUYA-SAN AND ME. THE SCRIPT'S FINALLY DONE.
IF IT'S LIKE THAT, TOO BAD...
AH! RIGHT. IF YOU PLEASE, COULD YOU HELP ME GIVE THIS TO TOUYA-SAN?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH! I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
PLEASE TELL HIM TO TAKE A LOOK, AND IF THERE'S ANY PROBLEM, FEEL FREE TO DISCUSS IT WITH ME!

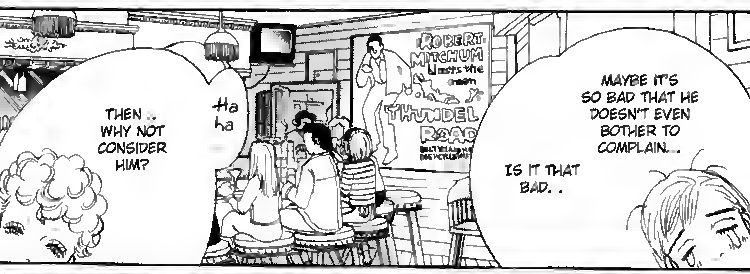

"AN AGREEMENT"?
IS SHE STUPID?
AND SHE SAYS IT LIKE IT'S ACTUALLY TRUE! WHAT A JOKE!
Throw!
KSH
Hmph

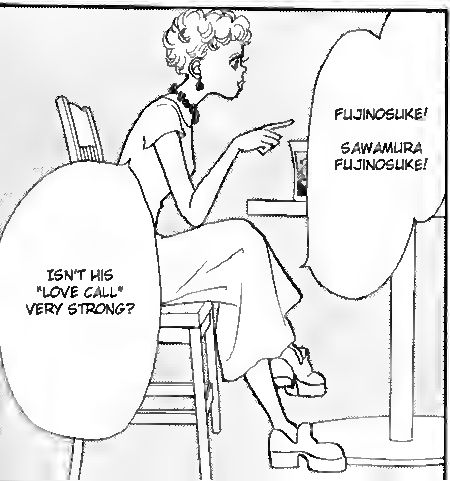

Pat's Burger
Pat's Burger
WHY
CAN IT ONLY BE ICHII TOUYA?
BECAUSE HE
CHIEF ALSO ASKED ME THE SAME QUESTION BEFORE.
Chewing Chewing
STAR
OOPS!
IT'S BECAUSE

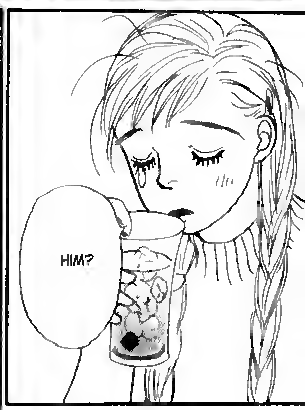

TOUYA-SAN IS MY GOAL,
AND, MY DREAM
VISA
IT'S JUST LIKE THIS!
THIS IS THE REASON
Burp burp


BUT, TOUYA-KUN HASN'T GOTTEN BACK TO YOU ABOUT THE SCRIPT YET?
.....
WHY, WHY DIDN'T HE CONTACT ME?
DON'T TELL ME... THAT TOUYA-SAN ISN'T SATISFIED WITH MY SCRIPT...?
I THINK IT'S INTERESTING...
YOU REALLY THINK SO!?
THAT'S RIGHT! I THINK IT'S NOT BAD TOO!
THAT IS WHAT I CREATED AFTER WORKING MY HEART OUT.

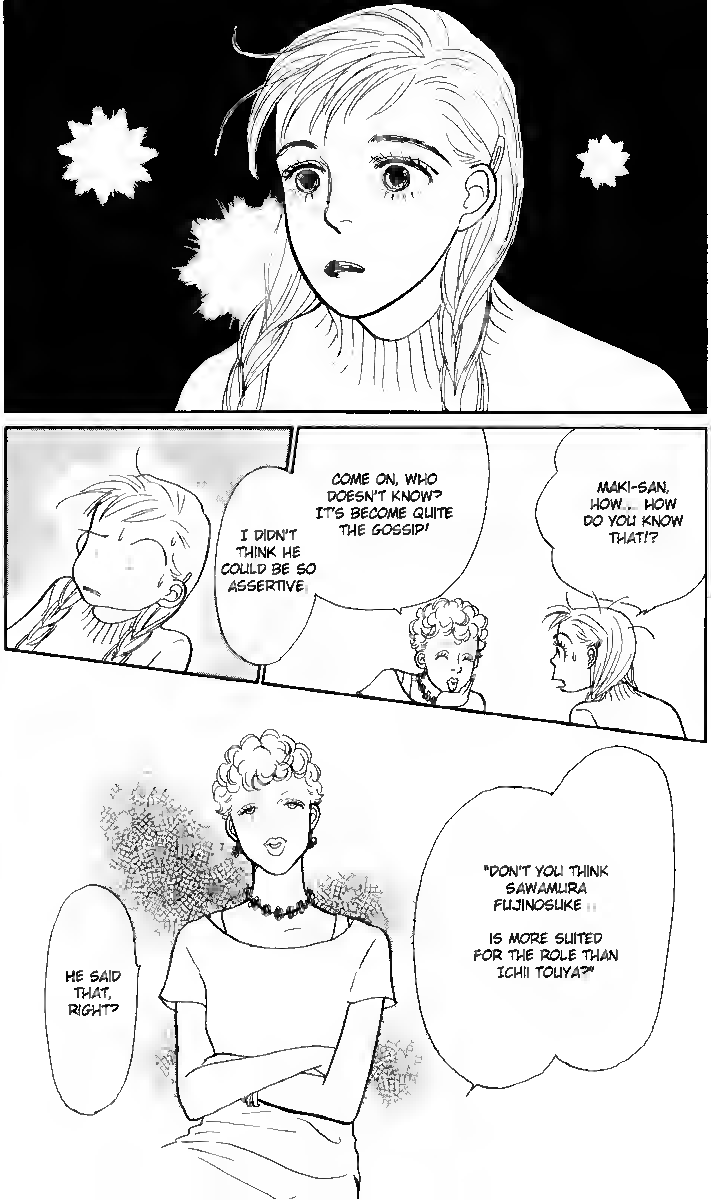

THAT'S STRANGE, IT GOES AGAINST ICHI! TOUYA'S NATURE. IF HE WAS DISSATISFIED ABOUT SOMETHING, HE'D TELL YOU WITHOUT HOLDING BACK.
HE MUST STILL HAVE THE HEART TO DO IT, RIGHT?
BUT THERE'S NO NEWS UP TILL NOW...
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT TOUYA-SAN WOULD FEEL THE SAME TOO...
Dejected...


THEN .. WHY NOT CONSIDER HIM?
Ha ha
ROBERT MITCHUM
THUNDER ROAD
MAYBE IT'S SO BAD THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN BOTHER TO COMPLAIN...
IS IT THAT BAD. .





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MAKI-SAN, HOW... HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT!?
COME ON, WHO DOESN'T KNOW? IT'S BECOME QUITE THE GOSSIP!
I DIDN'T THINK HE COULD BE SO ASSERTIVE
"DON'T YOU THINK SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE IS MORE SUITED FOR THE ROLE THAN ICHII TOUYA?"
HE SAID THAT, RIGHT?


AH! THAT'S US!
THE SHOP SETTING IS DONE! CUSTOMERS A THROUGH F, GET TO YOUR PLACES.
EH? YOU HAVEN'T HEARD?
HEY, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
FUJINOSUKE-SAN IS INTERESTED IN YUU-CHAN'S SCRIPT
HEY!
We're on!
We're on!


WHERE IS SHE?


WHO ..?
YUU!
SASAYA YUU!
OH, SHE'S PREPARING A SCHOOL REPORT, SHE CAN'T COME THIS WEEK
She's still a university student regardless of every thing else!
RIGHT,
HOW'S HER SCRIPT?
...I HAVEN'T READ IT.
HEY HEY HEY,
I KNOW YOU HAVE A VERY PACKED SCHEDULE, BUT NO MATTER HOW BUSY YOU ARE, YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME TIME TO SKIM THROUGH THE SCRIPT.
Looking down on people?
I HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN TO TOUCH A PAGE OF THE SCRIPT,
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO READ IT?


THAT PERSON... WHAT IS SHE THINKING...
SHE DIDN'T COME TO LOOK FOR ME!
HOW CAN SHE NOT GIVE IT TO YOU?
YOU MUST BE JOKING!
YUU HAS ALWAYS HOPED THAT YOU'D BE THE FIRST TO READ IT.
TOUYA
DO YOU KNOW THAT SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE IS ALSO ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNING FOR THE ROLE IN "THE AGE-CHANGING MOUNTAIN PASS"?


AND...
HE SEEMS TO BE ABNORMALLY CONFIDENT
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?
HMPH!
I HAVEN'T READ THE SCRIPT YET, WHAT'S THERE TO SAY!
KE
KE
KE
Chief why are you so happy?

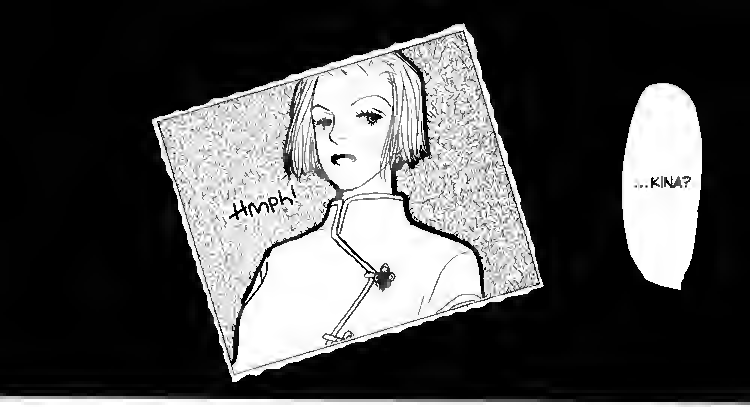


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TOO SLOW! WHY ARE YOU BACK SO LATE? I WAITED TILL I DOZED OFF.
WAIT . . .
IS SOME-THING WRONG ?
YOU DARE TO ASK ME!
YOUR SCRIPT'S COMPLETED, RIGHT?
WHY IS IT THAT THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS EXCEPT ME?


HUH?
I GOT REALLY MAD WHEN I HEARD THIS!
WHY DID YOU KEEP IT ONLY FROM ME? WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME READ THE SCRIPT?


NOT LETTING YOU READ IT.
?
?
YOU HAVEN'T LOOKED THROUGH THE SCRIPT?
Gahhh!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN GIVE IT TO ME, HOW AM I TO LOOK THROUGH IT!?
BUT, I ALREADY BROUGHT IT TO THE TV STATION AND ASKED KINA-SAN TO PASS IT ON.
……
……

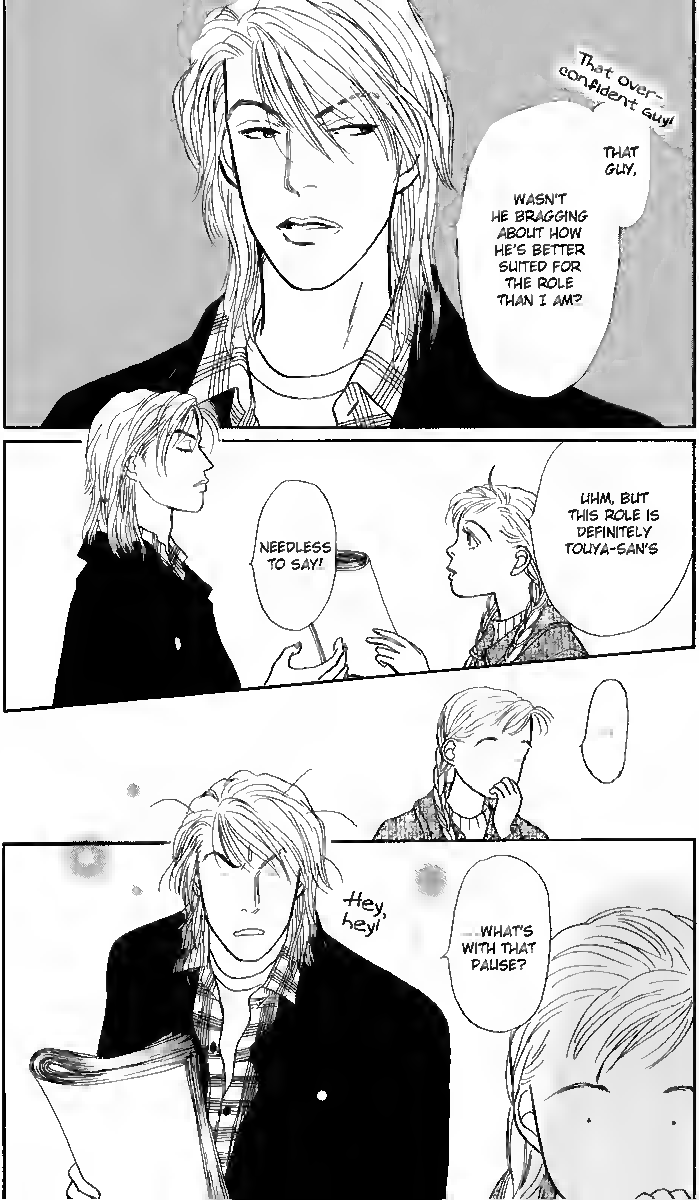

Hmph!
...KINA?


KAZUMA-SAN,
THERE'S A VIP OUTSIDE.
YO. HI!




明日の王様
ASHITA NO OUSAMA
UNIT 42


.....
EH? KINA-SAN FORGOT TO PASS IT TO YOU?
HMM?
HEY!
WELL, I'M GLAD I HAVE ANOTHER COPY HERE, THEN.
I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT GUY.
THAT GUY?
SAWAMURA FUJINO-SUKE!


That over-confident guy!
THAT GUY,
WASN'T HE BRAGGING ABOUT HOW HE'S BETTER SUITED FOR THE ROLE THAN I AM?
UHM, BUT THIS ROLE IS DEFINITELY TOUYA-SAN'S
NEEDLESS TO SAY!
...
Hey, hey!
...WHAT'S WITH THAT PAUSE?

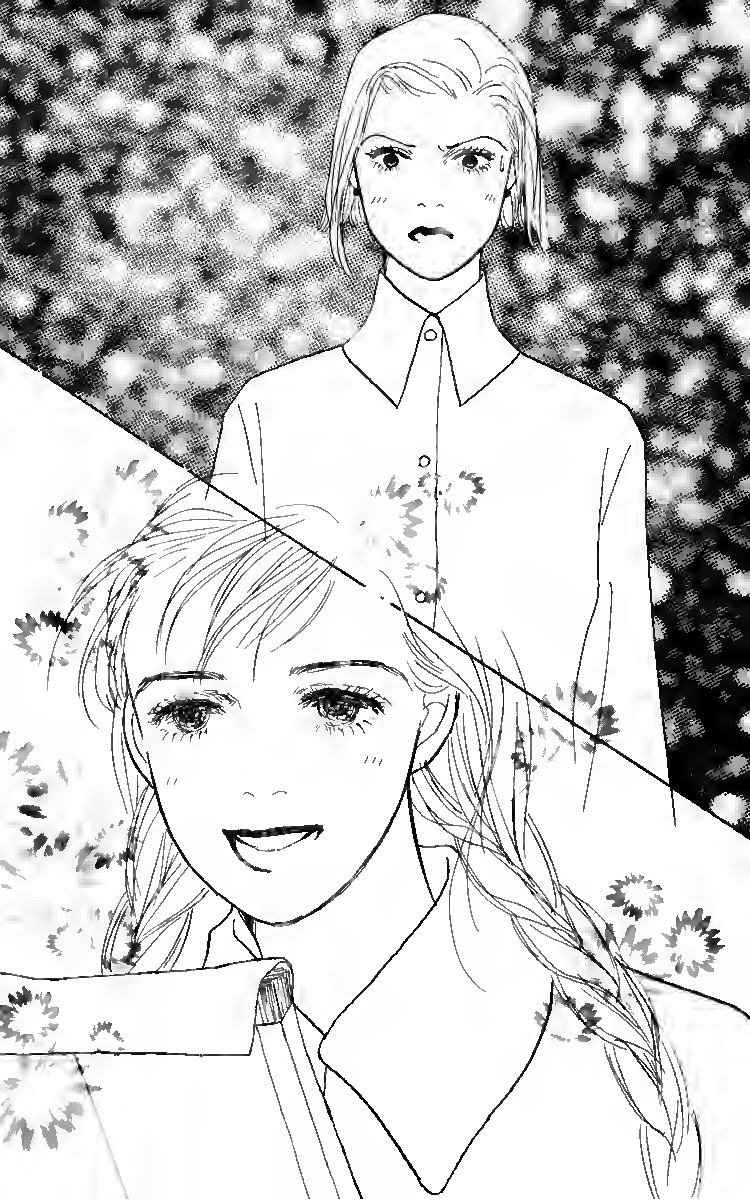

I JUST FEEL THAT IT'S A BIT INCRED-IBLE...
WHAT?
GIVEN FUJINOSUKE-SAN'S EXPERIENCE, IT'D BE NO PROBLEM FOR HIM TO PERFORM ON A GRANDER STAGE.
WHY MUST HE INSIST ON ACTING IN MY DRAMA...
HE'S ENCHANTED.
EH?!


HOW,
STOP JOKING!
HOW CAN IT BE!
THAT WAS...
WITH YOUR DRAMA.
AH... OH, DRAMA...
AH...
DON'T TELL ME YOU THOUGHT HE WAS ENCHANTED WITH YOU?
I'M... IMPOSSIBLE!
Ha ha ha...
A LITTLE SELF-IMPORTANT THERE, EH?
Oops.
Actually thought so.


I REMEMBER PUTTING IT HERE.
EH? NOT THERE?
Strange.
YOU THREW IT AWAY, DIDN'T YOU?
AH!!
SORRY, I WAS SO BUSY I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT.
...
WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A THING?!
EVERY SINGLE WORD WAS PENNED WITH HER SWEAT AND BLOOD, HOW COULD YOU SIMPLY...
BECAUSE.


SHE KEEPS SAYING "THIS WAS WRITTEN FOR TOUYA-SAN"
"THIS IS WHAT WAS AGREED ON BETWEEN TOUYA-SAN AND ME"
SHE TREATS YOU LIKE HER PRIVATE PROPERTY— IT REALLY PISSES ME OFF!
IT WAS PURE LUCK SHE WON THE COMPETITION AND GOT A BIT FAMOUS, AND YET SHE BECOMES SO PRESUMPTUOUS...
IT'S REALLY STUPID!
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS? AS IF SHE'S SOME AMAZING PERSON!
SAYING SUCH WORDS, DON'T YOU FEEL EMPTY?


PEOPLE WHO ONLY KNOW HOW TO SNEER AT THOSE WHO GRAB HOLD OF THEIR DREAMS ARE REALLY PATHETIC
KINA,
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS
OF SASAYA YUU, WHO PURSUES HER DREAM SO WHOLE-HEARTEDLY.




WHAT?
FUJINOSUKE-SAN APPROACHED KAZUMA-SAN?
THAT'S RIGHT, NO ONE EXPECTED THAT THE EXTREMELY INTROVERTED, ALMOST AUTISTIC FUJINOSUKE, WOULD ACTUALLY TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO APPROACH KAZUMA RIN
HE EVEN OFFERED TO JOIN HIS WORKSHOP!
WILL HE BE... ALL RIGHT?


SUDDENLY ENTERING THE LION'S DEN...
HEH, THE FUSE HAS BEEN IGNITED!
FUSE?
THE FUSE TO BECOMING A TRUE ACTOR!
NOW NO ONE CAN STOP HIS TRANSFOR-MATION


IN THAT CASE, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF "SAWAMURA FUJINOSUKE" KAZUMA-SAN WILL CREATE
HAHAHA, THOSE WORDS DON'T COME FROM YOUR HEART! ACTUALLY, YOU ARE A LITTLE VEXED BECAUSE FUJINOSUKE WAS TAKEN AWAY, RIGHT?
I, I'M NOT SO GREEDY THAT I'D FIGHT OVER THIS KIND OF THING!
AMBITIONS, DESIRES...
AS LONG AS YOU ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS, DOES IT MATTER HOW BIG YOUR AMBITIONS AND DESIRES ARE?


RATHER THAN GREED, I'D RATHER SAY IT'S BECAUSE I'M EASILY PERSUADED, I JUST CAN'T REFUSE FAVORS, SO I KEEP WRITING...
THEN... CHIEF WRITING SCRIPTS FOR SO MANY GROUPS, AREN'T YOU GREEDY, TOO?
CAN'T REFUSE?
DIDN'T YOU JUST REFUSE A MAJOR PROJECT VERY DIRECTLY...?
NAKAMURA-SAN CRIED HIS EYES OUT OVER IT.
He actually refused it outright
THE OTHER PARTY IS THE DISTINGUISHED YOSHINO YASUHARU! HE'S REALLY SINCERE ABOUT INVITING YOU TO WORK WITH HIM BUT CHIEF...
YOSHINO YASUHARU IS INDEED A DISTINGUISHED PRODUCER, BUT I NEVER ENJOYED THE STAGE HE CREATED AT ALL.


THIS IS MY AMBITION
MY STRONGEST DESIRE IS TO WORK WITH THE STAGE I LIKE
YES?
YUU
TIME?
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME?


TO BE INDEPENDENT.
"SASAYA YUU" CAN'T ALWAYS BE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF GARANDOU.
THINK ABOUT IT.


CH-CHIEF...
DON'T TELL ME
YOU WANT TO CHASE ME OUT...?!
CHASE OUT...? IT SOUNDS SO EAR PIERCING.
CHIEF, PLEASE DON'T ABANDON ME~~~~
hey, hey!

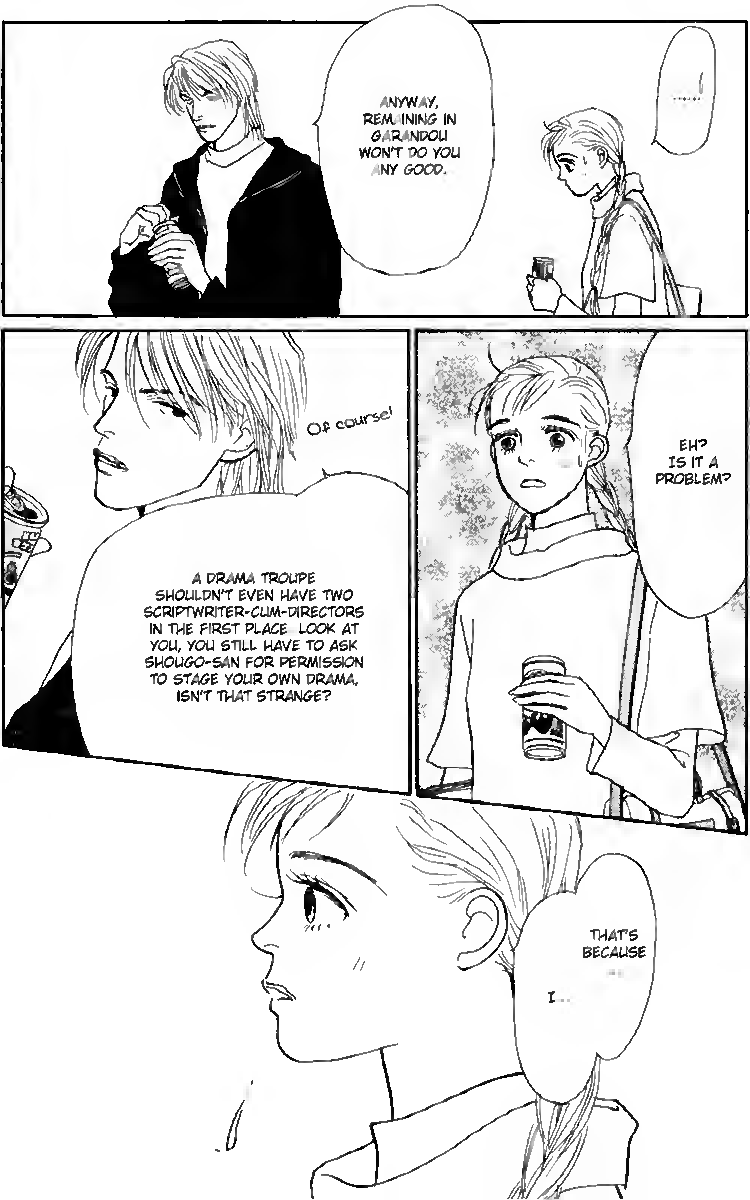

GRANNY,
AT THIS MOMENT,
THE LAND UNDER MY FEET,
SEEMS... TO DISAPPEAR ALL OF A SUDDEN...
I USUALLY DON'T NOTICE IT,
BUT THIS EVER FIRM, STEADY, ACCESSIBLE PIECE OF LAND...
IS WHAT I CAN FALL BACK ON.

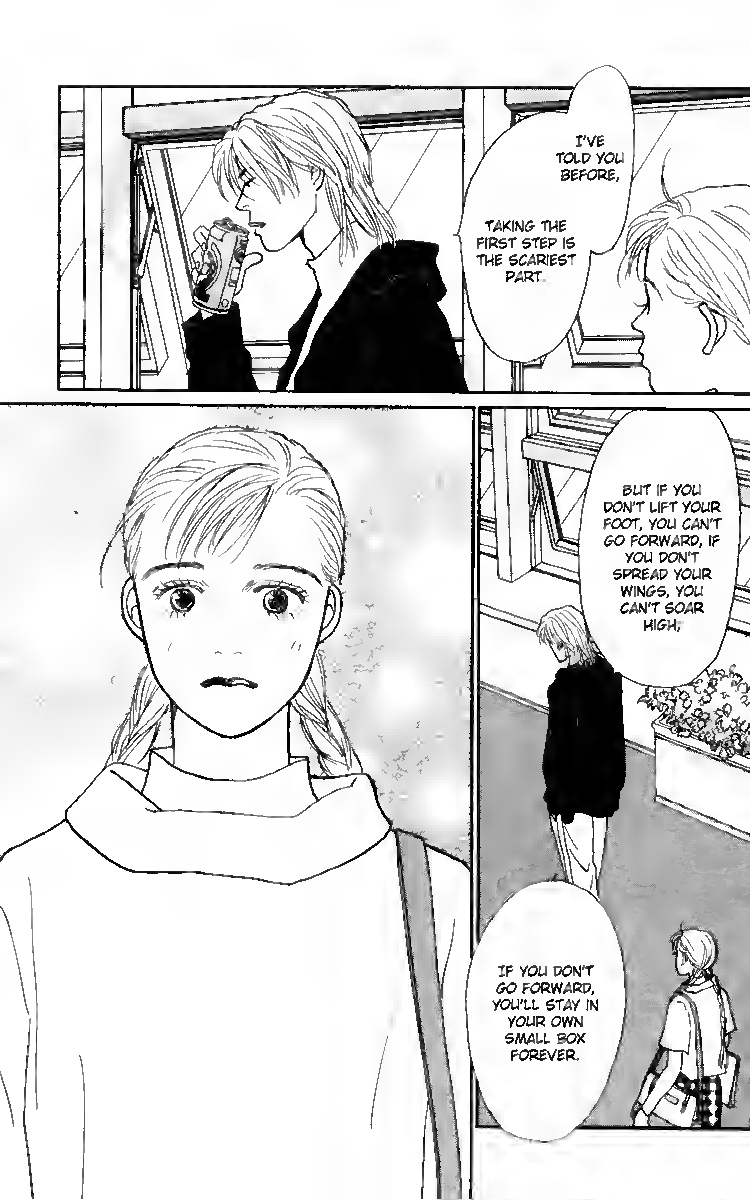

YES,
"GARANDOU" IS MY FAMILY,
IT'S THE PLACE THAT FOUND AND NURTURED SASAYA YUU,
NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY I AM,
IT'S ALWAYS THE HOME I CAN RETURN TO


SUDDENLY THROWING ME AWAY FROM THE HOME I BELONG TO IS...
東都TV
SORRY, TOUYA-SAN!
IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT CONFIRMING.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. IS IT BETTER TO CONTACT THE AGENCY FIRST?
AH!

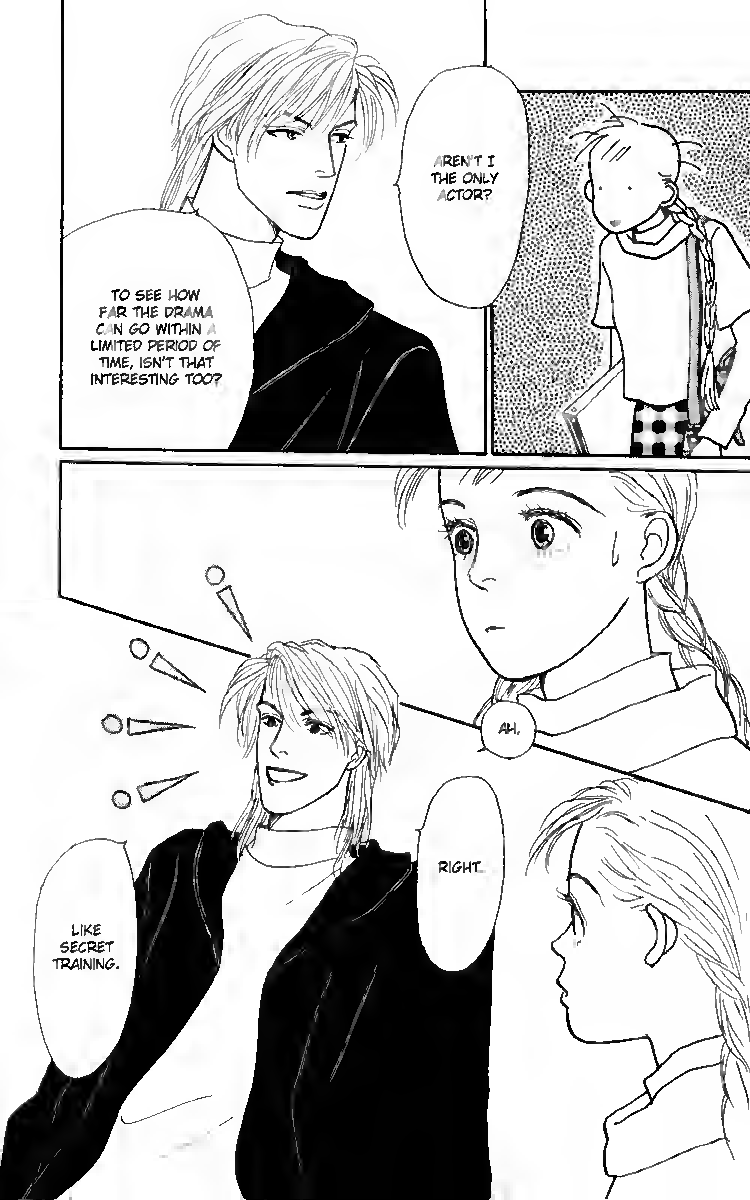

TOUYA-SAN!
.....
Scurry
THAT'S RIGHT.
orr...
TEMPO-RARY
WHAT ABOUT KINA-SAN?
THE TEMPORARY MANAGER HE'S STILL A ROOKIE, SO HE'S A BIT FLUSTERED
WHO'S THAT?
OH
BREAK? IS SHE SICK?
SHE'S TAKING A BREAK
NOPE, SHE'S NOT TAKEN A BREAK SINCE SHE BECAME MY MANAGER, AND SINCE THERE'S NOTHING IMPORTANT TO DO LATELY, I GAVE HER A BREAK.


WHY ARE YOU HERE? JUST TOOK ON A JOB FROM THE TV STATION?
NO...
THE AGENCY TOLD ME YOU'D BE HERE, SO..
There's something...
CANS
WHAT? YOU BECAME SO MOODY BECAUSE OF SUCH A SMALL MATTER?
SMALL MATTER?
CHIEF WANTS ME TO LEAVE GARANDOU!
THAT MEANS HE ACKNOWLEDGES YOUR ABILITIES. YOU SHOULD BE FLATTERED REALLY.


ANYWAY, REMAINING IN GARANDOU WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD.
.....!
Of course!
A DRAMA TROUPE SHOULDN'T EVEN HAVE TWO SCRIPTWRITER-CUM-DIRECTORS IN THE FIRST PLACE. LOOK AT YOU, YOU STILL HAVE TO ASK SHOUGO-SAN FOR PERMISSION TO STAGE YOUR OWN DRAMA. ISN'T THAT STRANGE?
EH? IS IT A PROBLEM?
THAT'S BECAUSE I...


I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE,
TAKING THE FIRST STEP IS THE SCARIEST PART.
BUT IF YOU DON'T LIFT YOUR FOOT, YOU CAN'T GO FORWARD, IF YOU DON'T SPREAD YOUR WINGS, YOU CAN'T SOAR HIGH,
IF YOU DON'T GO FORWARD, YOU'LL STAY IN YOUR OWN SMALL BOX FOREVER.

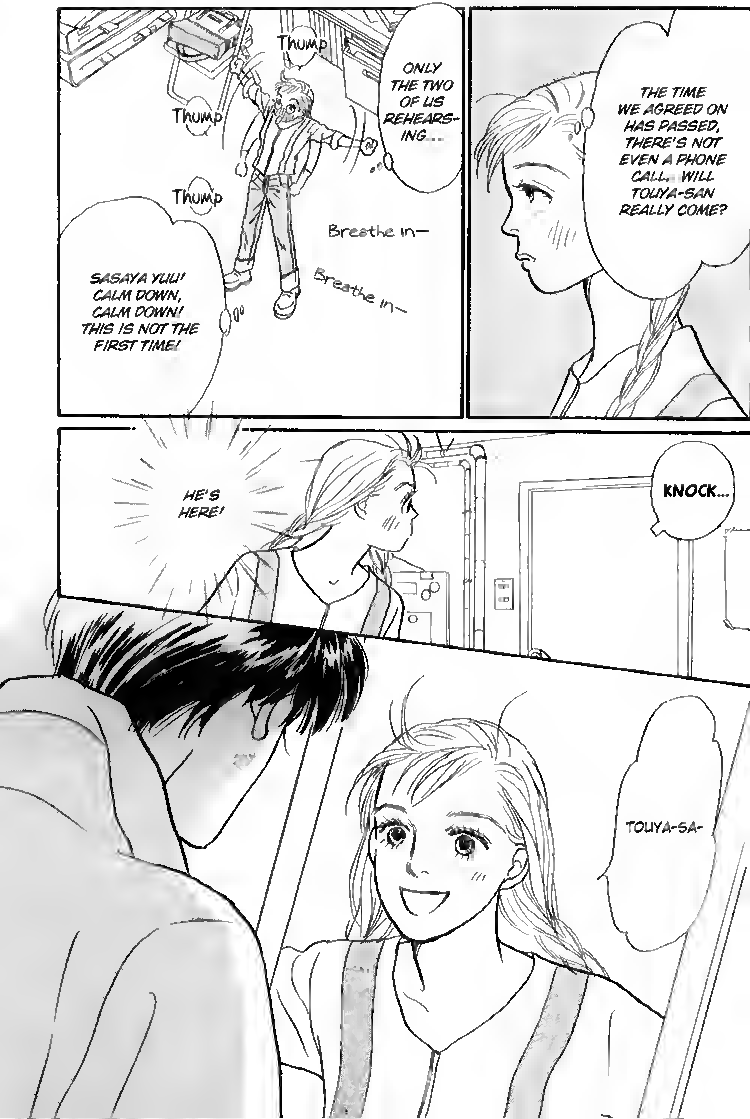

AH, AH— SO MEANINGLESS
—I KNOW THAT,
BUT
I THOUGHT THAT YOU CAME TO SPECIALLY TO DISCUSS THE DRAMA REHEARSALS
RE, REHEARSAL...
HOW CAN IT BE— I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT CAN BE STAGED!
DOES IT MATTER? ANYWAY I'LL BE GLAD TO ACCOMPANY YOU ANY TIME!


AREN'T I THE ONLY ACTOR?
TO SEE HOW FAR THE DRAMA CAN GO WITHIN A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME, ISN'T THAT INTERESTING TOO?
AH.
RIGHT.
LIKE SECRET TRAINING.


TRAINING SOUNDS A BIT WEIRD, IT'S LIKE ACTING IN A DETECTIVE DRAMA FULL OF SUSPENSE...
BUT I STILL FEEL SOME ANXIETY AND EXCITEMENT!
TOUYA-SAN?
I MEANT EVERY WORD I SAID.
.....
ERM ...
Poke
Poke


YEAH...
I'M SERIOUS
ABOUT IT.


THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR YUU-SAN TO STAY BEHIND ALL ALONE? WHAT IS SHE WORKING ON? DOES SHE NEED HELP?
SHE SAYS IT'S HER OWN WORK, PROBABLY WRITING A SCRIPT.
HEY, WANT TO GO FOR KARAOKE?
Let's GO Let's GO party!
We like it!
What? Karaoke again?


THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
ONLY THE TWO OF US REHEARSING...
BREATHE IN—
BREATHE IN—
SASAYA YUJI! CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN! THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME!
THE TIME WE AGREED ON HAS PASSED, THERE'S NOT EVEN A PHONE CALL... WILL TOUYA-SAN REALLY COME?
HE'S HERE!
KNOCK...
TOUYA-SA-


YUU-SAN
I...
FUJINOSUKE-SAN?!
CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE

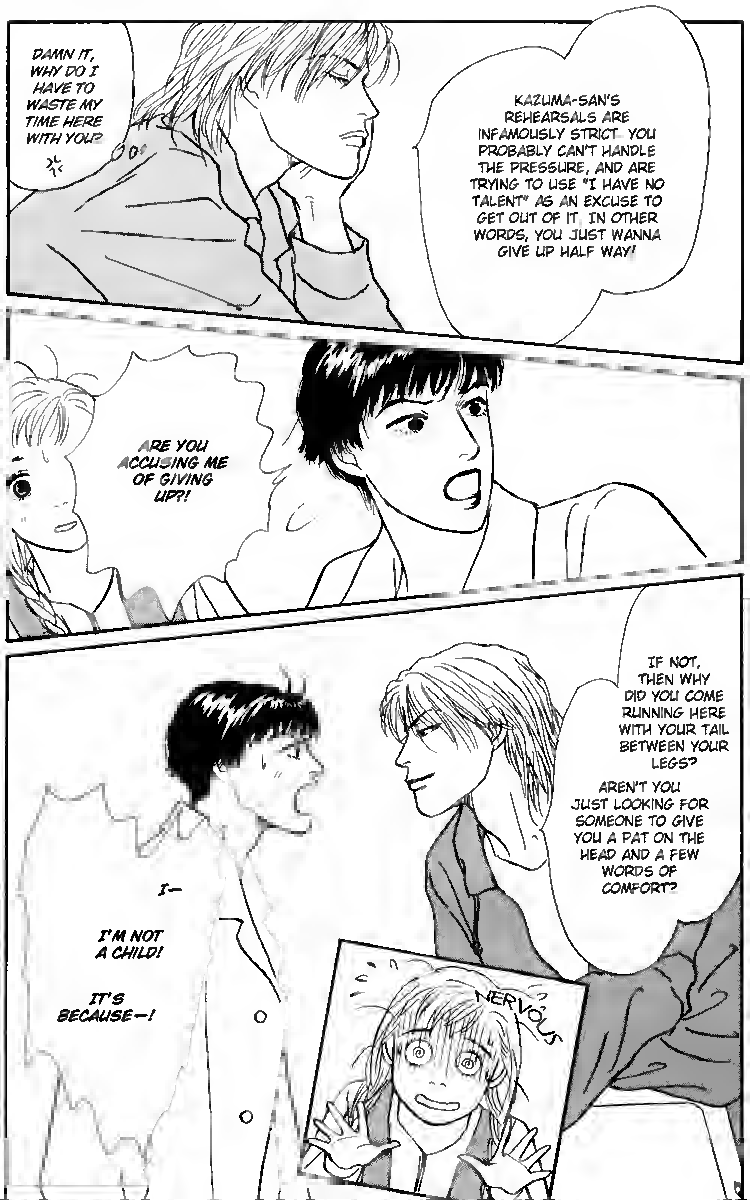


Ashita no Ousama UNIT 42 - End


ASHITA NO OUSAMA
明日の王様
UNIT 43


I...
CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE

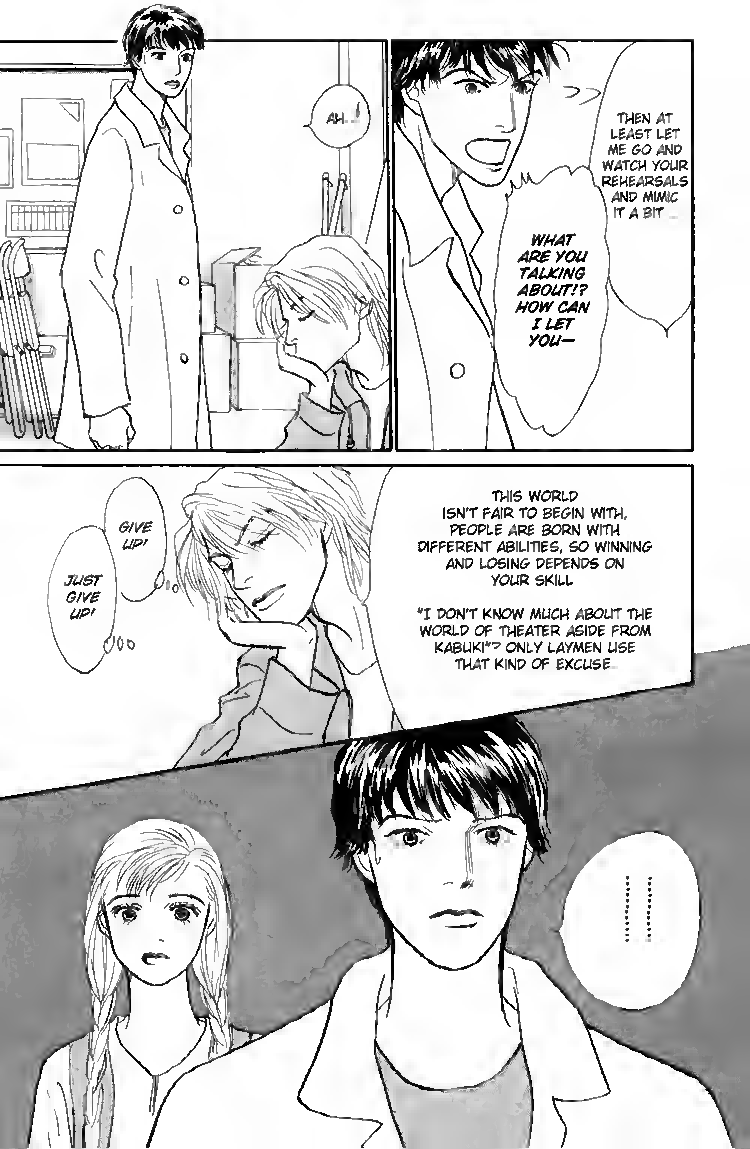

FUJINOSUKE-SAN?
He's refused to leave ever since he got here. What a bother...
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT IN FRONT OF THAT GUY
HEHE...
I CAN GUESS WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY IT.


DAMN IT, WHY DO I HAVE TO WASTE MY TIME HERE WITH YOU?
KAZUMA-SAN'S REHEARSALS ARE INFAMOUSLY STRICT. YOU PROBABLY CAN'T HANDLE THE PRESSURE, AND ARE TRYING TO USE "I HAVE NO TALENT" AS AN EXCUSE TO GET OUT OF IT. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU JUST WANNA GIVE UP HALF WAY!
ARE YOU ACCUSING ME OF GIVING UP?!
IF NOT, THEN WHY DID YOU COME RUNNING HERE WITH YOUR TAIL BETWEEN YOUR LEGS?
AREN'T YOU JUST LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO GIVE YOU A PAT ON THE HEAD AND A FEW WORDS OF COMFORT?
I—
I'M NOT A CHILD!
IT'S BECAUSE—!
NERVOUS


JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN IN ONE OF SASAYA YUU'S PLAYS DOESN'T MEAN SHE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
IF IT'S KAZUMA-SAN'S SCRIPT, WHY NOT GO TO HIM?
.....
BECAUSE OF WHAT?
THAT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM GIVING UP!
IT'S ONLY NATURAL I HAVE QUESTIONS, WHY CAN'T I ASK—
FINE, I ADMIT I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE WORLD OF THEATER ASIDE FROM KABUKI,

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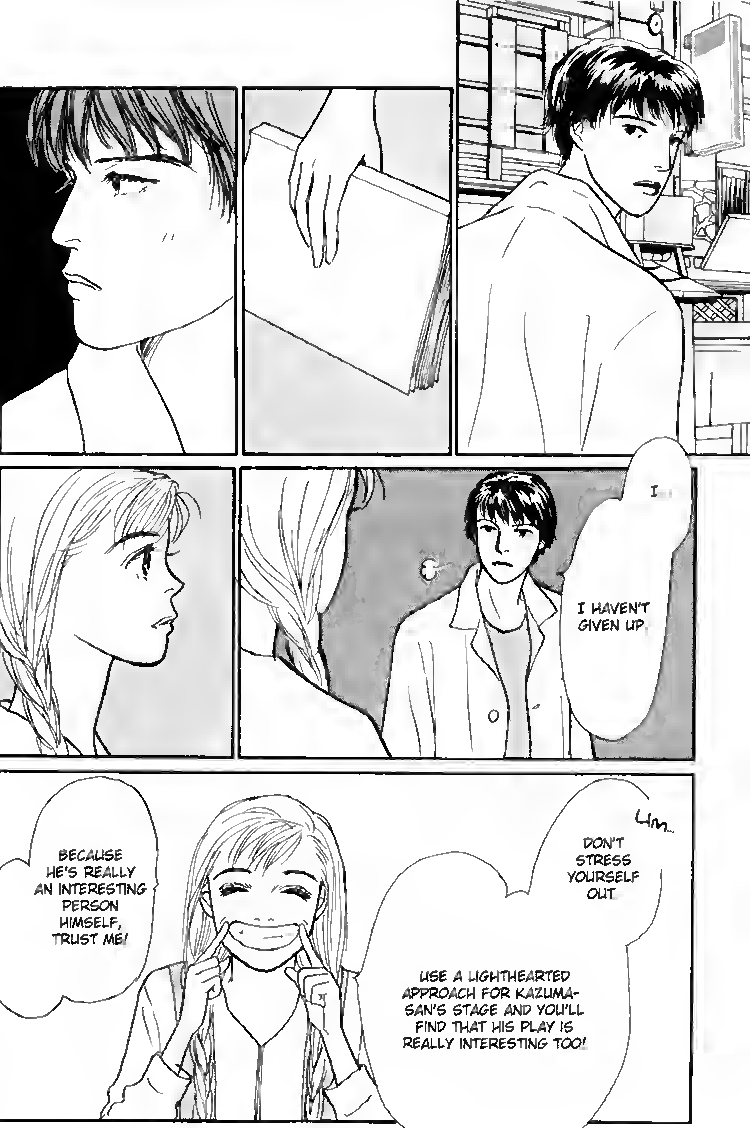

IF YOU DON'T GIVE UP THIS SORT OF RELIANCE—THIS LAZY, ESCAPIST MENTALITY—KAZUMA-SAN'S NEVER GOING TO LET YOU WALK ONTO HIS STAGE.
!
HOW AM I LAZY?!
DON'T YOU GET IT?
LET'S TRY SOMETHING ELSE. I WANNA LEARN SOME KABUKI FOR THIS SHOW I'M DOING, CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR EXPERTISE WITH ME?
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.


AH...!
THEN AT LEAST LET ME GO AND WATCH YOUR REHEARSALS AND MIMIC IT A BIT...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? HOW CAN I LET YOU—
GIVE UP!
JUST GIVE UP!
THIS WORLD ISN'T FAIR TO BEGIN WITH, PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH DIFFERENT ABILITIES, SO WINNING AND LOSING DEPENDS ON YOUR SKILL
"I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE WORLD OF THEATER ASIDE FROM KABUKI"? ONLY LAYMEN USE THAT KIND OF EXCUSE...
.....

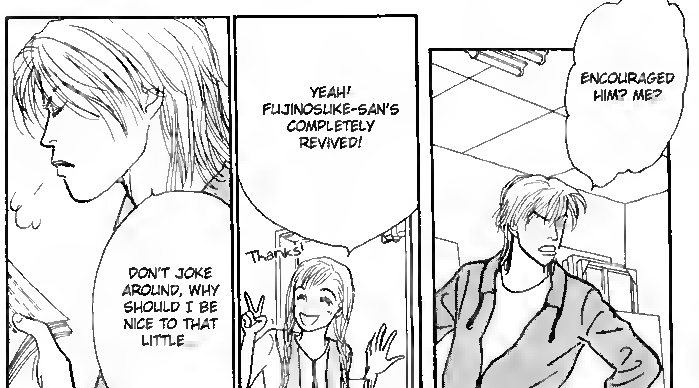



FUJINO-SUKE-SAN!




I...
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP.
Um...
DON'T STRESS YOURSELF OUT.
USE A LIGHTHEARTED APPROACH FOR KAZUMA-SAN'S STAGE AND YOU'LL FIND THAT HIS PLAY IS REALLY INTERESTING TOO!
BECAUSE HE'S REALLY AN INTERESTING PERSON HIMSELF, TRUST ME!

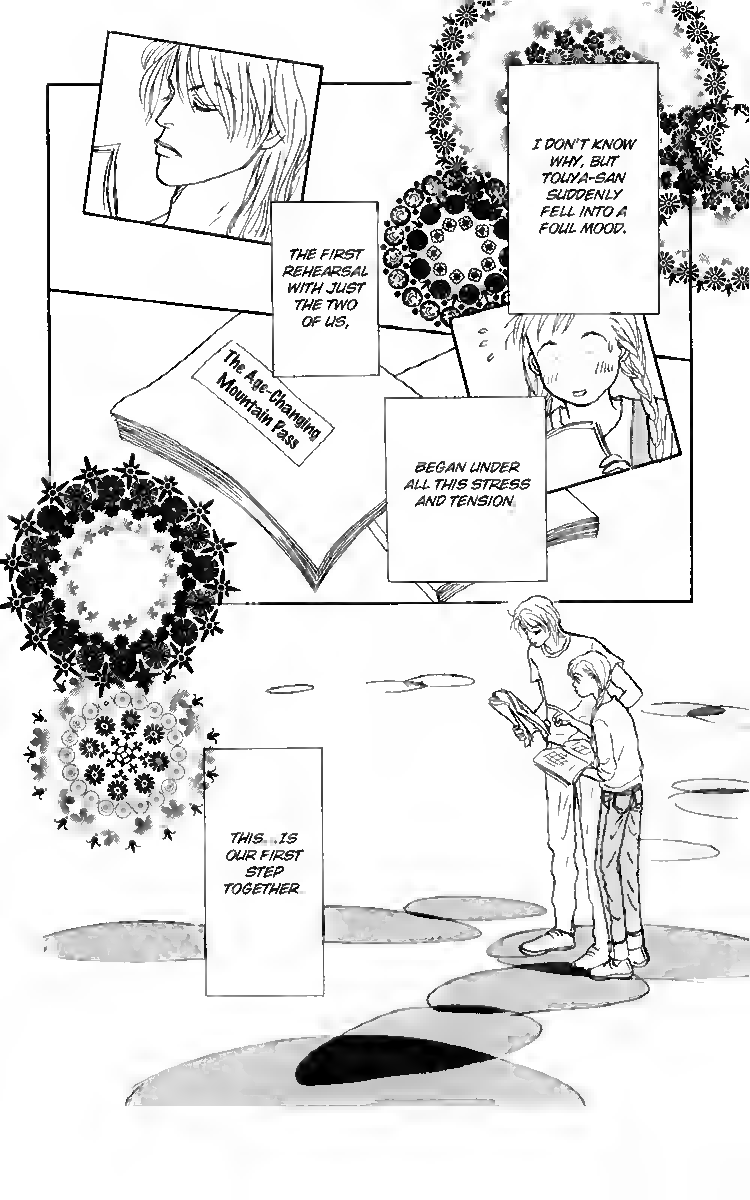



ENCOURAGED HIM? ME?
YEAH! FUJINOSUKE-SAN'S COMPLETELY REVIVED!
Thanks!
DON'T JOKE AROUND, WHY SHOULD I BE NICE TO THAT LITTLE


BUT, DUE TO MY MEDDLING, I'VE PREVENTED YOU FROM "COMFORTING" HIM
SORRY THAT I INTERRUPTED YOU TWO!
?


I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT~
THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL THERE...
REALLY.
AH, DEJA VU
I'VE SEEN THIS SITUATION BEFORE
?


?
?
?
WHY DO I ALWAYS HAPPEN TO RUN INTO THESE BOTHERSOME SITUATIONS?
GRANNY

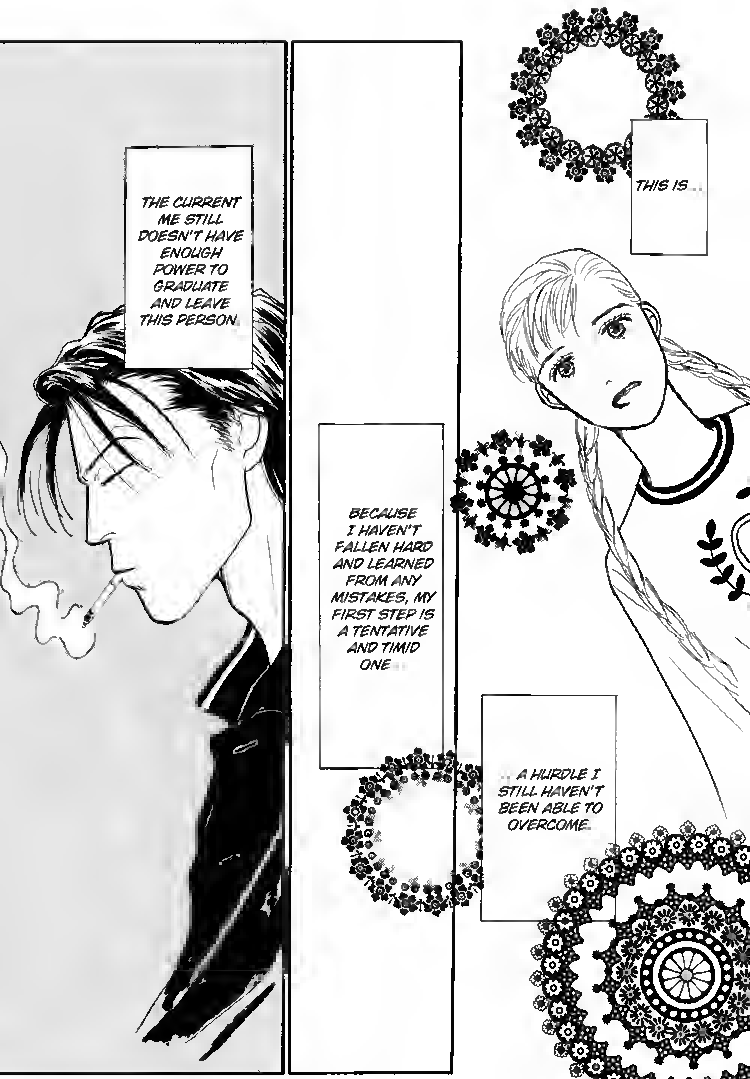

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT TOLYA-SAN SUDDENLY FELL INTO A FOUL MOOD.
THE FIRST REHEARSAL WITH JUST THE TWO OF US,
The Age-Changing Mountain Pass
BEGAN UNDER ALL THIS STRESS AND TENSION.
THIS...IS OUR FIRST STEP TOGETHER.



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HAHAHA. AFTER THINKING ABOUT IT FOR THAT LONG, THIS IS YOUR DECISION? HONESTLY, IF YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO LEAVE I WOULD'VE BEEN PRESSED TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE!
PLEASE, I STILL CAN'T GRADUATE YET, SO LET ME STAY AT GARANDOU.
YEAH.
YEAH.
DID YOU JUST... DID YOU AGREE?
DIDN'T YOU WANT THE TROUPE TO DO SOMETHING NEW, TO TAKE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR?
BUT, CHIEF...
.....


THEN I'LL TURN MYSELF INTO A BREEZE, AND HAVE YOU RIDE ON MY CURRENT—
YEAH, BUT IF THE AIR STOPS MOVING,
HOW'S THAT? MY PLAN'S PRETTY PROFOUND, HMM?
YOUR MOUTH'S GETTING SMARTER BY THE DAY!
AAH!
BUT WHO KNOWS WHERE I'M GOING TO LAND IF I KEEP UP WITH CHIEF'S HOT AIR...


THE CURRENT ME STILL DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO GRADUATE AND LEAVE THIS PERSON.
BECAUSE I HAVEN'T FALLEN HARD AND LEARNED FROM ANY MISTAKES, MY FIRST STEP IS A TENTATIVE AND TIMID ONE...
THIS IS...
...A HURDLE I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME.





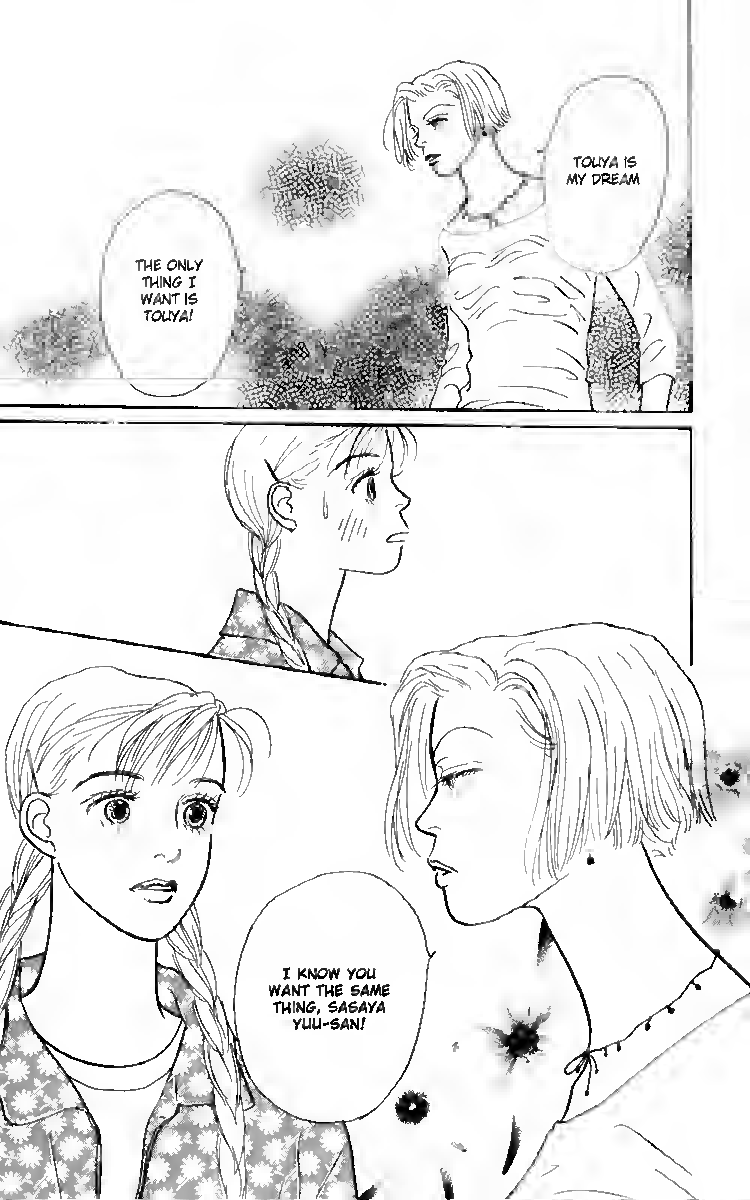
WHEN I WILL FINALLY FIND THE WINGS THAT WILL GIVE ME THE POWER TO SOAR...

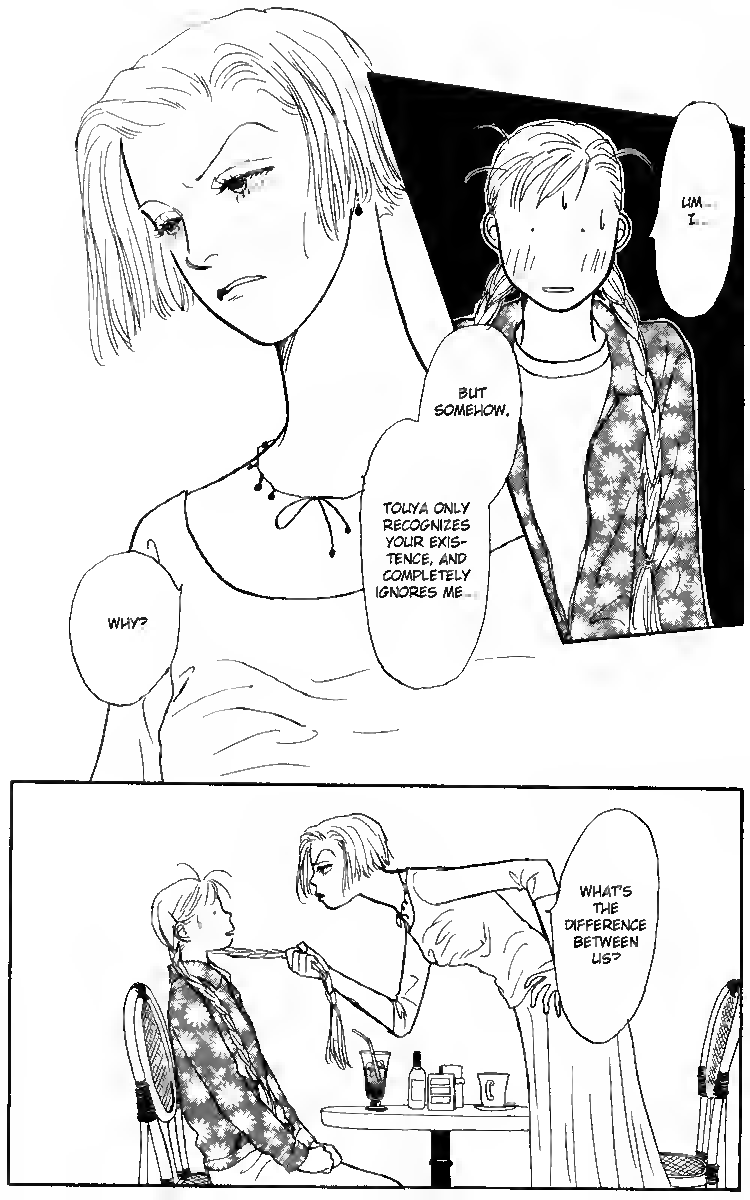


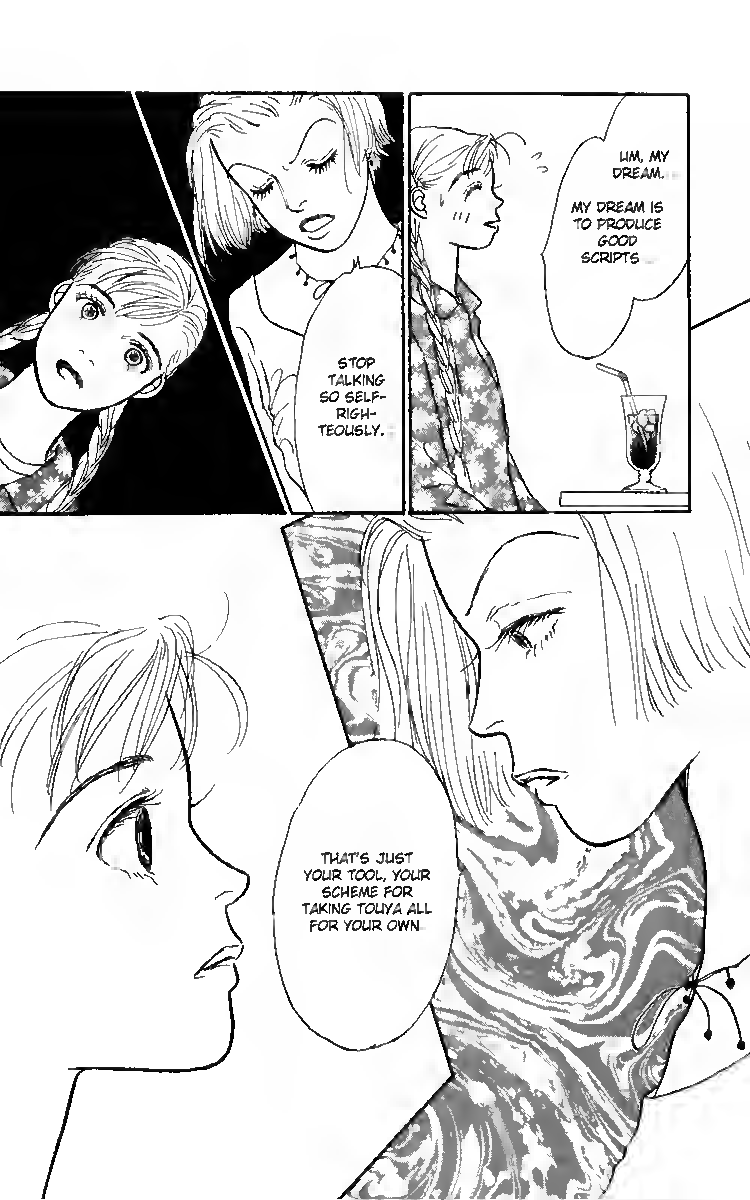

UM...
I... WONDER WHY SHE INVITED ME OUT...
BUT SHE'S NOT SAYING ANYTHING...
?
SIP
?
O-OH, RIGHT! TOUYA-SAN TOLD ME,
YOU TOOK A BREAK A WHILE AGO...
DID YOU TRAVEL ANYWHERE?


HMPH, WITHOUT TOUYA, THERE'S REALLY NO POINT IN GOING ANYWHERE. IT WOULDN'T BE FUN.
.....
I WAS ONLY TRYING TO MAKE TOUYA UNDERSTAND HOW UTTERLY INDISPENSABLE I AM TO HIM.
FU FU FU... THAT CRAZY SCHEDULE IS TOO MUCH FOR A NEWBIE TO HANDLE. HE'S TOTALLY SWAMPED.
.....
WHAT? YOU THINK I'VE CROSSED THE LINE?
YEAH

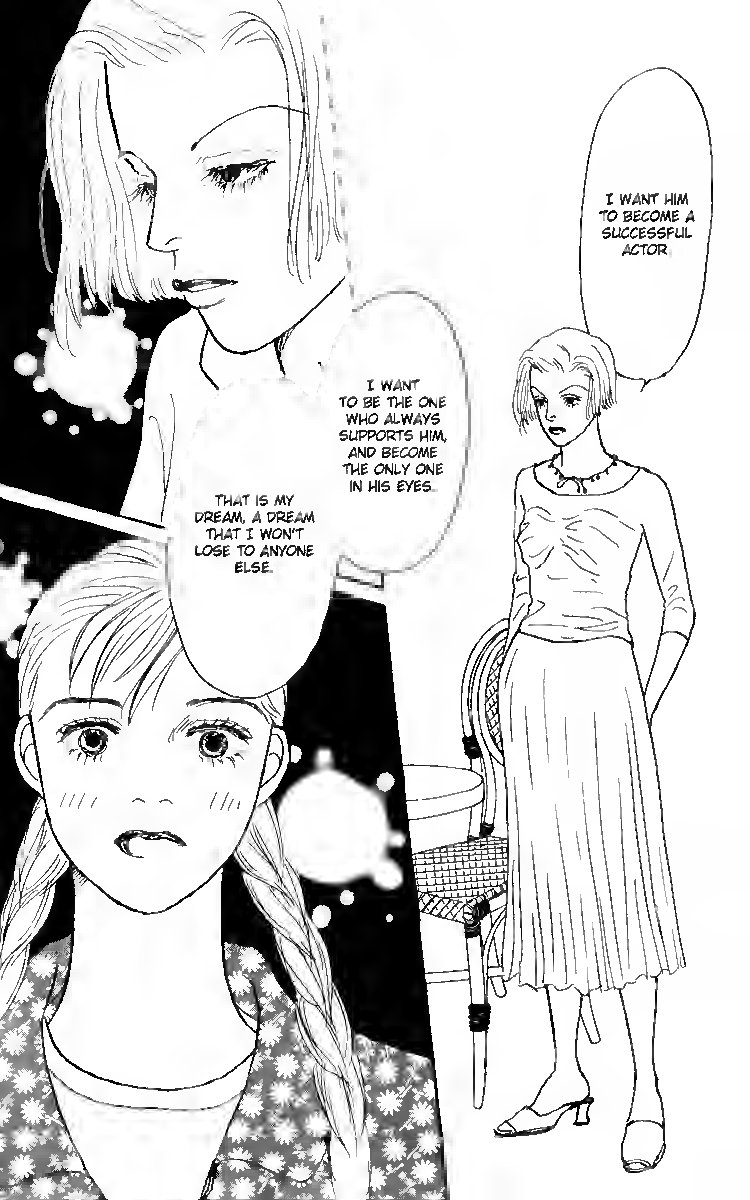

TOUYA'S THE ONE WHO'S CROSSED THE LINE!
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING!!
Yuu
I HAVE MY OWN DREAMS TOO!!
HE THINKS THAT I'M WORKING HARD TO BE HIS MANAGER BECAUSE I'M AFTER SOMETHING?!
...SAYING I'M JEALOUS OF YOU...
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!!
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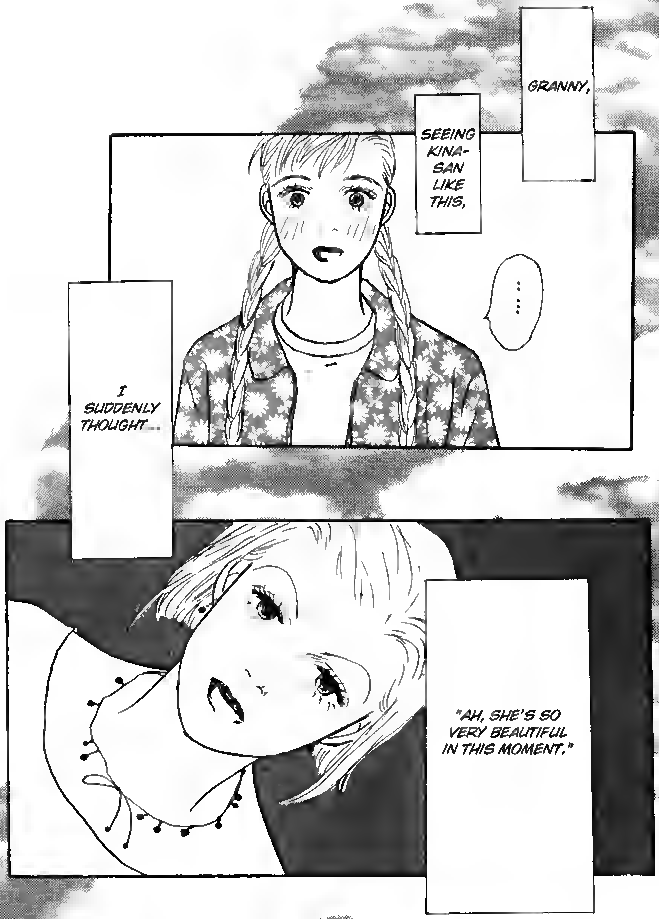

TOUYA IS MY DREAM
THE ONLY THING I WANT IS TOUYA!
I KNOW YOU WANT THE SAME THING, SASAYA YUU-SAN!


UM... I...
BUT SOMEHOW.
TOLYA ONLY RECOGNIZES YOUR EXISTENCE, AND COMPLETELY IGNORES ME...
WHY?
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US?


STOP TALKING SO SELF-RIGH-TEOUSLY.
UM, MY DREAM.
MY DREAM IS TO PRODUCE GOOD SCRIPTS
THAT'S JUST YOUR TOOL, YOUR SCHEME FOR TAKING TOUYA ALL FOR YOUR OWN


I LOVE TOLYA


I WANT HIM TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL ACTOR.
I WANT TO BE THE ONE WHO ALWAYS SUPPORTS HIM, AND BECOME THE ONLY ONE IN HIS EYES.
THAT IS MY DREAM, A DREAM THAT I WON'T LOSE TO ANYONE ELSE.


GRANNY,
SEEING KINA-SAN LIKE THIS,
……
I SUDDENLY THOUGHT…
"AH, SHE'S SO VERY BEAUTIFUL IN THIS MOMENT."